

George Belshaw Sr.

Pioneer of 1853

compiled by Stephenie Flora

oregonpioneers.com

George Belshaw Sr. [Pioneer of 1853]

b. 30 Oct 1877 Nottinghamshire, England

d. 14/15 Jun 1866 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Masonic Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

s/o William and Elizabeth Belshaw

m. 16 Nov 1810 Nottinghamshire, England

Elizabeth "Ely" Archer [Pioneer of 1853]

b. 1789 England

d. 07 Jun 1867 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Masonic Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

1850: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, August 24, 1850; George Belshaw, 70, farmer, \$2000, England; Elisabeth, 58, England; Samuel, 19, farmer, England; Charley, 17, farmer, England

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 20, 1860; George Belshaw, 70, farmer, \$800 \$600, England; Elisabeth, 68, England

MEMOIR.

George Belshaw, the subject of this memoir, was born in Nottinghamshire, England, October 30th, 1779. In 1834 he came to America with his family and settled in the Western part of the State of Indiana. In 1853 he removed to Oregon, and took up his abode in Lane county, where he resided until his death. He died about 7 o'clock A. M., June 15th at the residence of his son, Mr. Thomas Belshaw of this place, in the 87th year of his age.

Very aged persons always command the reverence and attention of thoughtful minds. We love to gaze upon them as connecting links with years long gone by. But when, as in the case of Father Belshaw, old age is attended with manifest cheerfulness and piety, it commands and receives our affection and love, as well as profound respect. Father Belshaw was a member by birth of the Church of England, and from early life was taught to reverence the Sabbath day, love the Bible and fear God. No man was more unblameable than he in all the external departments of life. He became a Baptist in sentiment, but although for many years "a devout man and one that feared God always," he still did not experience a satisfactory evidence of his acceptance with God, until weakness and disease confined him to his bed. Unable then to attend public worship, he had no opportunity of uniting himself publicly to the visible Church of Christ, but continued for more than four long years while confined to his bed, to give the brightest evidence of real communion and fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. Nothing delighted him more than the songs of Zion and the blessed promises of God's word, which he loved to hear and repeat to the very last. Thousands of other things were forgotten, while these were ever fresh in his memory. He invariably inquired concerning those who called to see him, first, "Is he a good man?" When satisfied on that point he would then inquire, "Has he a family?" and proceed to ask after their welfare, and pray for God's blessing upon them. Thus indicating to the last the strength of his piety, and the deep interest he felt in the prosperity of others. A touching scene was

witnessed, when his aged wife, with whom he had trodden life's weary road for more than 56 years, approached his bedside a few hours before he died, and discovered that he no longer recognized even her. She then said to him "Father do you know Jesus?" He at once rallied and responded distinctly "aye, aye," and the dying patriarch soon after breathed his last.

His remains were taken on the 16th to the M. E. Church, where appropriate funeral services were conducted by Elder Bond; after which they were conveyed to the Cemetery north-east of town.

Thus within a few months have five aged citizens of Eugene been laid in the grave. The united ages of these five persons was more than 400 years; the average age of each was more than 80. And is this all of earth? Must all come to this? Heaven teach us so to number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom.

COMMUNICATED.

DIED.

Died June 7th, 1867, at the residence of her son, Thomas Belshaw, in Eugene City, after an illness of three weeks, Mrs. Elizabeth Belshaw, aged 78 years.

Deceased was a native of Nottinghamshire, England. In early life she became the subject of converting Grace and united with the Independent church. In the year 1834 she, with her husband and family, emigrated to America and settled in Indiana. She there changed her religious views, and together with her daughter, was baptised into the fellowship of the Baptist church. Some fourteen years ago she with her husband and a portion of her family, crossed the plains and settled in Lane county, Oregon. Shortly after she became a member of the Eugene City Baptist church, of which she remained a faithful and consistent member till the voice of her Master called her to that rest which remaineth for the people of God. Her delight was in the sanctuary, and upon every occasion of worship when her declining health would permit, her tottering form could be seen wending its way thither. She was always amongst the first that met at the sacred place. Mother Belshaw's character may be stated as consisting of ardent piety and practical benevolence. Her interest in the welfare of the church was deep and constant, and her zeal always active and earnest in every Christian enterprise. She was therefore with us, in a very strong sense, a Mother in *Israel*. She

had a warm sympathetic heart. While always deeply and specially interested in the church of which she was a member, her heart and hands were always ready to help in every good work. Her benevolence to those whom she found needing assistance was limited only by her means to render aid. To her children she was all that the cherished word "Mother" conveys to the mind; kind, doting, indulgent and self-sacrificing. She loved the society of all God's people. To her daughter-in-law, who was with her in her last illness, she frequently reverted to her youthful days in her happy English home, to the time when she first found Jesus precious to her soul. It was her best and brightest day in all her long life's history. For her former Pastor, Rev. Mr. Dawson, who was the means under God of leading her to embrace her Savior, she cherished strong Christian affection. On her death-bed she bore her sufferings with resigned Christian fortitude. She was never heard to murmur, and while permitted to converse with friends around her bed, she told them she was willing to go when the Messenger summoned her. She lay passive to the will of the Master she loved. She told a friend her desire was to have her lamp trimmed and burning, awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom. Upon one occasion she repeated that beautiful stanza of Watts:

"Jesus can make a dying bed
Feel soft as downy pillows are;
While on his breast I lean my head
And breathe my life out sweetly there."

Once while contemplating her heavenly home, she repeated the verse throughout: "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever."—*Rev., last chap. 5th verse*, and exclaimed, "what a promise!" She was unconscious about twelve hours before expiring; and when the loved spirit had taken its flight, and the body lay a lifeless corpse, her countenance bespoke a mind all serene. None that gazed upon it doubted that *that* peace which passeth all understanding, reigned within. She has left a large circle of acquaintances who mourn her loss; and those who knew her best, will lament her most. In her death the writer has lost a true friend, a dear companion, and a wise counselor. To her children she has left the priceless legacy of a Christian character. Mrs. SUSAN STEVENSON.
Indiana papers please copy.

[Oregon State Journal, Eugene, Oregon, Saturday, June 15, 1867 p.3]

Children of George Belshaw Sr and Mary Archer:

1. Mary Belshaw [did not emigrate]
 - b. 02 Jan 1812 Norringham, England
 - d. 26 Jan 1881 LaPorte County, Indiana
 - buried [Pine Lake Cemetery](#), LaPorte, LaPorte County, Indiana
 - m. 01 Nov 1835 LaPorte County, Indiana
George Seffens
 - b. 16 Jan 1815 Yorkshire, England
 - d. 16 Dec 1895 LaPorte, LaPorte County, Indiana
 - buried [Pine Lake Cemetery](#), LaPorte, LaPorte County, Indiana
 - m2. Martha Barstow (1833-1912)
2. William Belshaw [did not emigrate]
 - b. 18 Nov 1813 Nottingham, England
 - d. 23 Nov 1884 Lake County, Indiana
 - buried [Sanders Cemetery](#), Lowell, Lake County, Indiana
 - m. 13 Dec 1847 Lake County, Indiana
Harriet A. Jones

b. 06 Aug 1824 Ohio

d. 28 Feb 1893 Lake County, Indiana

buried [Sanders Cemetery](#), Lowell, Lake County, Indiana

1850: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, August 24, 1850; William Belshaw, 36, farmer, \$1500, England; Harriet, 26, OH; Edward W., 1, IN; Patrick Parsons, 19, farmer, unk

1860: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, June 25, 1860; William Belshaw, 41, farmer, \$6000 \$3253, England; Harriet, 34, OH; Edward, 12, IN; Mary, 10, IN; Charles, 7, IN; Florence, 5, IN; Lucy J., 1, IN

3. George Belshaw Jr. [Pioneer of 1853]

b. 14 Nov 1816 Nottinghamshire, England

d. 28 Nov 1893 Farmington, Whitman County, Washington

buried [Masonic Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

m. 21 Jan 1843 Lake County, Indiana

Candace McCarty

b. 12 Jan 1826 Indiana

d. 02 Aug 1893 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Masonic Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

d/o Benjamin McCarty Jr and Deida Walker

1850: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, August 24, 1850; George Belshaw, 34, farmer, \$1600, England; Candace, 24, IN; William M., 4, IN; Ann L., 5/12, IN; Patrick Masterson, 14, Ireland; Thomas Smith, 39, laborer, England

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 28, 1860; George Belshaw, 45, farmer, \$5500 \$3400, England; Candace, 35, housewife, IN; Wm M., 14, IN; Ann L., 10, IN; Marshall W., 8, IN; Mary H., 4, OR; John E., 2, OR; Stephen F., 8/12, OR; Morgan G. McCarty, 30, school teacher, \$0 \$60, IN

1870: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 25, 1870; Geo Belshaw, 54, farmer, \$16,350 \$4,000, Eng; Candace, 44, keeps house, IN; Marshall, 18, works on farm, IN; Mary A., 14, at home, OR; John, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 10, at home, OR

1880: North Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 24-26, 1880; Geo Belshaw, 64, farmer, Eng Eng Eng; Candace, 54, wife, keeping house, IN TN NC; John, 22, son, farmer, OR Eng IN; Frank, 20, son, at home, OR Eng IN

Mrs. Cadence Belshaw, wife of Geo. Belshaw, whose wheat has made Lane county famous the world over for a quarter or a century, died at the family residence in Eugene, August 2, 1893.

[The Corvallis Gazette, August 11, 1893]

ANOTHER PIONEER GONE.

Farmington, Wash., Nov. 28.—Geo. Belshaw, aged 78, died this morning at the residence of his son, M. W. Belshaw. He crossed the plains in 1853, and lived in Oregon until last August, when he came here on a visit. Mr. Belshaw's wheat took first premium at the following world's fairs: Philadelphia, New Orleans, Paris, and Chicago. He has also several medals and seventeen diplomas from state fairs and other expositions. The remains will be taken to Eugene, Or. He leaves five children.

[The Daily Morning Astorian, November 29, 1893 p.1]

Children of George Belshaw Jr and Candace McCarty:

i. William M. Belshaw

b. 09 Nov 1845 Lake County, Indiana

d. 16 May 1865 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Masonic Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

1850: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, August 24, 1850; George Belshaw, 34, farmer, \$1600, England; Candace, 24, IN; William M., 4, IN; Ann L, 5/12, IN; Patrick Masterson, 14, Ireland; Thomas Smith, 39, laborer, England

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 28, 1860; George Belshaw, 45, farmer, \$5500 \$3400, England; Candace, 35, housewife, IN; Wm M., 14, IN; Ann L., 10, IN; Marshal W., 8, IN; Mary H., 4, OR; John E., 2, OR; Stephen F., 8/12, OR; Morgan G. McCarty, 30, school teacher, \$0 \$60, IN

- ii. Annie L. Belshaw
 - b. 1850 Lake County, Indiana
 - d. 30 Jun 1935 Berkley, Alameda County, California

- m. 02 Sep 1866 Lane County, Oregon

- John Gilson Howell Jr.

- b. 17 Dec 1836 Springfield, Williams County, Ohio

- d. 08 Feb 1909 San Francisco, San Francisco, California

1850: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, August 24, 1850; George Belshaw, 34, farmer, \$1600, England; Candace, 24, IN; William M., 4, IN; Ann L, 5/12, IN; Patrick Masterson, 14, Ireland; Thomas Smith, 39, laborer, England

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 28, 1860; George Belshaw, 45, farmer, \$5500 \$3400, England; Candace, 35, housewife, IN; Wm M., 14, IN; Ann L., 10, IN; Marshal W., 8, IN; Mary H., 4, OR; John E., 2, OR; Stephen F., 8/12, OR; Morgan G. McCarty, 30, school teacher, \$0 \$60, IN

1870: Heraldsburg, Sonoma County, California, July 8, 1870; Jno G. Howell, 33, publisher, \$800 \$300, OH; Annie B., 20, keeps house, IN; Hugh, 2, at home, OR; Annie, 1, at home, CA; Kate, 3/12 (Feb), at home CA

1880: Oakland, Alameda County, California, June 5, 1880; John G. Howell, 42, clerk in justice court, OH OH TN; A.B., 30, wife, housekeeper, IN Eng MO; Hugh, 12, son, at school, OR OH IN; Annie, 11, dau, at school, CA OH IN; Katie, 10, dau, at school, CA OH IN; John G., 6, son, at school, CA OH IN; Ray, 4, son, CA OH IN; McCarty, 24, cousin, grad of CA university, OR IN MO

1900: Twp 13, Placer County, California, June 8, 1900; John G. Howell, head, Dec 1836, 63, m-33yrs, OH OH OH, farmer; Annie B., wife, Jan 1850, 50, m-33yrs, 8-6, IN Eng IN; Rhoda E., dau, Apr 1883, 17, s, CA OH IN, at school; Anna Hart, boarder, Jan 1885, 15, Eng Eng Eng, emigrated 1893, at school; Mary Walker, boarder, Jun 1875, 24, m-2yrs, 0-0, RI Ire Ire, servant

HOWELL—In Berkeley. June 30. 1935.
 Annie S. Howell, beloved mother of Seeley Wilcox, Mrs. L. T. Haskell, Mrs. Fletcher Ames and Hugh, John and Ray Howell; a native of Indiana, aged 85 years and 6 months.
 Services private today (Tuesday, July 2), at 2 o'clock p. m., at the chapel of Edward E. Niehaus Co., 2640 Grove, at Derby street, Berkeley.

[San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco, California, Tuesday, July 2, 1935 p.11]

- iii. Marshal Whitfield Belshaw
 - b. 31 Mar 1851 Lake County, Indiana

d. 18 Jul 1913 Spokane, Spokane County, Washington
buried [Greenwood Memorial Terrace](#), Spokane, Spokane County, Washington

m. c1876 Oregon

Mary Eleanor Henrickson

b. 18 Oct 1856 Oregon

d. 27 Jan 1940 Spokane, Spokane County, Washington

buried [Greenwood Memorial Terrace](#), Spokane, Spokane County, Washington

d/o William Henrickson and Sarah Jackson

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 28, 1860; George Belshaw, 45, farmer, \$5500 \$3400, England; Candace, 35, housewife, IN; Wm M., 14, IN; Ann L., 10, IN; Marshal W., 8, IN; Mary H., 4, OR; John E., 2, OR; Stephen F., 8/12, OR; Morgan G. McCarty, 30, school teacher, \$0 \$60, IN

1870: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 25, 1870; Geo Belshaw, 54, farmer, \$16,350 \$4,000, Eng; Candace, 44, keeps house, IN; Marshall, 18, works on farm, IN; Mary A., 14, at home, OR; John, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 10, at home, OR

Funeral services for the late M. W. Belshaw, former Spokane city councilman and well known farmer and business man of Farmington, whose death occurred Friday, was held Sunday at Spokane.

[Libby Herald, Libby Montana, Friday, July 25, 1913 p.3]

iv. Gertrude Belshaw

b. 20 Sep 1853 Oregon

d. 06 Oct 1853 near Salem, Marion County, Oregon

v. Mary Adelaide Belshaw

b. 02 Feb 1856 Lane County, Oregon

d. 16 Nov 1935 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Eugene Pioneer Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

m. 1877 Lane County, Oregon

George Walton Kinsey

b. 25 Mar 1850 Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

d. 06 Nov 1933 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Eugene Pioneer Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 28, 1860; George Belshaw, 45, farmer, \$5500 \$3400, England; Candace, 35, housewife, IN; Wm M., 14, IN; Ann L., 10, IN; Marshal W., 8, IN; Mary H., 4, OR; John E., 2, OR; Stephen F., 8/12, OR; Morgan G. McCarty, 30, school teacher, \$0 \$60, IN

1870: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 25, 1870; Geo Belshaw, 54, farmer, \$16,350 \$4,000, Eng; Candace, 44, keeps house, IN; Marshall, 18, works on farm, IN; Mary A., 14, at home, OR; John, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 10, at home, OR

-Obituary-

**PIONEER WOMAN
OF EUGENE DIES**

**Mrs. Mary B. Kinsey Born
79 Years Ago**

EUGENE, Nov. 17 (Special)—The funeral of Mrs. Mary B. Kinsey, 79, pioneer of Eugene, who died at her home here yesterday, will be held at 2 P. M. Monday. Mrs. Kinsey, who was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Belshaw, who came across the plains in 1853, was born four miles west of Eugene. She was married to George W. Kinsey in 1877, and he died in 1933.

Survivors are four daughters, Miss Ethel C. Kinsey and Miss Mae D. Kinsey, both of Eugene; Mrs. Mentor M. Boney and Mrs. L. B. Pagter, both of Bellingham, Wash., and four grandchildren.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Monday, November 18, 1935 p.12]

vi. John E Belshaw

b. 1858

d.

m. 25 Dec 1882

Emma Drucilla Parsons

b. 06 Apr 1863 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

d. 01 Feb 1942 Multnomah County, Oregon

buried [Lincoln Memorial Park](#), Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m2. 23 Sep 1901 John Lewis Hunt (1864-1928)

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 28, 1860; George Belshaw, 45, farmer, \$5500 \$3400, England; Candace, 35, housewife, IN; Wm M., 14, IN; Ann L., 10,

IN; Marshal W., 8, IN; Mary H., 4, OR; John E., 2, OR; Stephen F., 8/12, OR; Morgan G. McCarty, 30, school teacher, \$0 \$60, IN

1870: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 25, 1870; Geo Belshaw, 54, farmer, \$16,350 \$4,000, Eng; Candace, 44, keeps house, IN; Marshall, 18, works on farm, IN; Mary A., 14, at home, OR; John, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 10, at home, OR

1880: North Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 24-26, 1880; Geo Belshaw, 64, farmer, Eng Eng Eng; Candace, 54, wife, keeping house, IN TN NC; John, 22, son, farmer, OR Eng IN; Frank, 20, son, at home, OR Eng IN

vii. Frank Edson Belshaw

b. Mar 1859 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

d. 10 Sep 1901 Pullman County, Washington

m1. 1884 Lane County, Oregon

Martha Alice Hoult

b. 07 Feb 1857 Lane County, Oregon

d. 03 Jan 1886 Lane County, Oregon

d/o Enoch Hoult and Jeannette Sommerville

m2. 29 Apr 1896 Bozeman, Gallatin County, Montana

Lucinda Ann Chapman

b. 18 Jul 1866 Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

d. 14 May 1940 Bozeman, Gallatin County, Montana

buried Sunset Hills Cemetery, Gallatin County, Montana

d/o John Chapman and Mary Anderson

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 28, 1860; George Belshaw, 45, farmer, \$5500 \$3400, England; Candace, 35, housewife, IN; Wm M., 14, IN; Ann L., 10, IN; Marshal W., 8, IN; Mary H., 4, OR; John E., 2, OR; Stephen F., 8/12, OR; Morgan G. McCarty, 30, school teacher, \$0 \$60, IN

1870: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 25, 1870; Geo Belshaw, 54, farmer, \$16,350 \$4,000, Eng; Candace, 44, keeps house, IN; Marshall, 18, works on farm, IN; Mary A., 14, at home, OR; John, 12, at home, OR; Frank, 10, at home, OR

1880: North Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 24-26, 1880; Geo Belshaw, 64, farmer, Eng Eng Eng; Candace, 54, wife, keeping house, IN TN NC; John, 22, son, farmer, OR Eng IN; Frank, 20, son, at home, OR Eng IN

With a bullet hole through his head and a smoking revolver lying close by, the dead body of F. E. Belshaw, a rancher living near Hope, was found by his wife recently.

[Pullman Herald, Pullman, Washington, Saturday, September 21, 1901 p.4]

This column some months ago contained excerpts from the diary of George Belshaw, brother of Mrs. Parsons. He was captain of the wagon train. His wife and three children, his father, George, Sr., and mother Elizabeth (nee Archer); his brothers Thomas, Samuel and Charles, the wife of Thomas, Maria (Parsons); her father and mother of the family name Parsons; their sons, Henry, William and Oscar, and two daughters besides Maria, were of the original Belshaw train. Also the wife and son of Stephen Martin; Avery Smith; Morgan Green McCarty, Fayette McCarty and Jonathan McCarty, brothers of Mrs. Candace Belshaw, George Belshaw's wife, and Maria Darling, a single woman, not related, made up the 25 persons in the original party starting for Oregon.

” ” ”

The Belshaws settled in Lane county, near Chrisman's slough, four miles north of Eugene, where they prospered. George had 880 acres of good land in a solid piece by 1858, besides many cattle, horses, etc.

” ” ”

The George Belshaw journal, excerpts of which, as said before, some months ago appeared in this column, was edited by Mrs. Gwen Castle of San Francisco, a frequent contributor to the Christian Science Monitor. Annie Belshaw Howell of San Francisco, daugh-

ter of George Belshaw, was a very small child when the wagon train started across the plains. She is now the only known member of that wagon train's personnel who is still living.

“ ” ”

The reader has noted the death, near Salem, on Oct. 6, 1853, of the infant child of the George Belshaws, of "cancer of the stomach." It will probably strike any good doctor of this day that this was not the correct diagnosis. Annie Belshaw Howell told Mrs. Castle that her (Mrs. Howell's) mother often related to her of this child, her sister, that "they buried the little body by the road side in the Salem hills." As the camp the night before was three miles from Salem, and the child died at 9 a. m., and the company made 11 miles that day, to within a mile of old Santiam City on the Santiam river, the reader may have his guess as to the location of the unmarked grave of the infant immigrant. It may have been near the present Turner or Marion, or in the Looney neighborhood.

“ “ “

One of the remarkable features of this old diary of Maria Belshaw Parsons is the notation of so many dead cattle and horses along the trail, and so many graves of luckless immigrants, so near the end of the long, long journey. If the whole of it could be written, the story would be a heart rending one. What depths of sorrow were endured in that respect by the weary, worn and half starved survivors! Often families of children were left orphans in the wilderness by the deaths of both parents. More often, half orphans, by the passing on the plains of one parent.

“ “ “

In the covered wagon days, from 1848 to 1869, when the golden spike linking the Union Pacific with the Central Pacific was driven at Promontory Point at the north end of the Great Salt Lake, Utah, 350,000 people came over the immigrant trails, and perhaps 30,000 perished on the way and filled at this time unmarked graves; most of them in the Platte valley and the mountain stretches west of it, where it

was the custom to obliterate the burial places by driving the caravans over them, in order to hide them from thieving Indians and ghoulish wolves.

• • •

Of all the 30,000 only one is definitely marked, that of Rebecca Burdick, Mormon woman of the 1852 trek, largest of all those epochal years—and that one through an accidental discovery, as heretofore related in this column. Of that year's immigration, though above 50,000 got through, it is estimated that 6000 died on the way.

• • •

Before the covered wagon days,

the mortality was proportionately greater—two-fifths of the "mountain men," hunters and trappers, lost their lives.



One reads with sympathetic feelings such records as the journal of Mrs. Parsons discloses. What terrors, sorrows, weariness and hunger of body and soul she and her scores of thousands of sisters of the epochal hegira felt, at various stages along the tedious and tiresome way stretching over prairies, deserts, mountains and wilderness wastes! Even up to the very edge and into the borders of their promised land.



But, wonder of wonders, there is no record of a single woman of the mighty host turning back; and they were braver and able to endure more hardships on the average than the men! Many strong men did turn back, at various stages of the journey.



No suitable song has been sung to the glory of the dauntless spirit of our pioneer mothers, nor can one be framed with words set to music that would render half a tithe of the justice due; earned by the faith, fortitude and unconquerable courage with which they overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles and, patiently, ploddingly followed the gleam of hope to final triumphant victory. They were the uncrowned queens of the anabasis movement to the westernmost west.

BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

[The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Saturday, December 24, 1932]

■ ■ ■
Mrs. Mary V. Charlton, 109 E.
30th street, Apt. A., Portland,
writes the Bits man:

■ ■ ■
"In a recent issue of The States-
man I found in your 'Bits for
Breakfast' column a reference to
the late George Belshaw, and also
the names of the members of his
company when crossing the
plains. George Belshaw was my
uncle, his wife being my father's
sister, and the man Morgan Green
McCarty mentioned at the same
time, was my father, who after-
ward became a prominent bus-
iness man of Eugene, owning for
some time the Eugene flouring
mills. I have been in George Bel-
shaw's home many times. He was
a very progressive farmer, and I
must tell you a fact that you may
not have learned as yet. George
Belshaw took the prize at the
Philadelphia world's fair for the
best wheat, and I often saw the
diploma hanging on the walls of
his home certifying to the fact
that 'the best wheat in the world

was grown in Oregon.' Uncle George took great pride in showing it to all who came to his home. That was in 1876. A daughter of George Belshaw, Mrs. George Kinsey, is now living in Eugene, and a granddaughter, May Kinsey, is a well known teacher in the Eugene high schools. My mother, as you know, was a daughter of John Rigdon, a pioneer of 1853. Morgan Green McCarty was her second husband, and I was their only child.

■ ■ ■

"I am always glad to read your column in The Statesman, as it fills a long needed purpose, that of recording the facts of early history of the settlers of the Oregon country, gathering facts from the few remaining people who can remember and tell of these interesting matters ere it be lost to future generations."

■ ■ ■

Mrs. Charlton is the mother of E. Carl Charlton, long a popular member of the Salem police force. Her husband, C. M. Charlton, employed in various capacities for many years at the Oregon penitentiary, is now probation officer for the United States court, at Portland.

BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

[The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, January 5, 1933 p.4

In this district mention should be made of the fine farm of George Belshaw. This gentleman is the most extensive breeder of horses in the county, the stock principally being Clydesdale bred from imported animals, but he does not confine himself solely to that breed, he having some fine specimens of the Morgan and Sir Archy classes, there being seventy-five in all and nearly all of them thoroughbreds. He has also turned his attention to the breeding of Short-horns and Durham cattle, as well as the raising of Southdown, Leicester, Merino and Cotswold sheep, of which he has a flock of eight hundred of the purest breed. Mr. Belshaw has, too, a herd of one hundred and seventy-five hogs, of mixed though choice breeds, while he has recently imported from England some thoroughbred pigs of the Essex variety. It is in the culture of wheat, however, that Mr. Belshaw has earned a world-wide reputation, and has caused all eyes to be turned towards the Willamette valley as a wonder of fertility. Wheat grown on his farm received the first premium at the Centennial Exposition in 1876; at the Paris Exposition in 1878; and again at the Oregon State Fair, a succession of honors unequaled in the history of any one farm, and a distinguishing mark as to the excellence of the soil of Lane county. There are probably fifty varieties of wheat sown on Mr. Belshaw's property aiming to test that which is best adapted to this and other sections of the country.

[Illustrated History of Lane County, Oregon by A.G. Walling p. 458]

4. Henry Belshaw [did not emigrate]

b. 19 Oct 1819 Nottingham, England

d. 12 Dec 1892 Lowell, Lake County, Indiana

buried [Sanders Cemetery](#), Lowell, Lake County, Indiana

m.

Mary Smith

b. 26 Oct 1824 Vigo County, Indiana

d. 06 Jan 1905 Lake County, Indiana

buried [Sanders Cemetery](#), Lowell, Lake County, Indiana

1860: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, June 25, 1860; Henry Belshaw, 40, farmer, \$6350 \$800, England; Mary, 35, IN; Mary E., 15, IN; Ann M., 11, IL; Nancy J., 8, IL; William H., 6, IN; Eunice E, 4, IN; James, 1, IN

5. Thomas Belshaw [Pioneer of 1853]

b. 25 Aug 1825 Nottingham, England

d. 13 Oct 1890 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Eugene Pioneer Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

m. 13 Dec 1847 Lake County, Indiana

Mariah Augusta Parsons

b. 25 Jan 1826 Oswego County, New York

d. 23 Feb 1897 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

buried [Eugene Pioneer Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

1850: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, August 22, 1850; Thomas Belshaw, 24, carpenter, \$300, England; Maria, 24, NW

1860: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 19, 1860; Thomas Belshaw, 34, carpenter, \$1500 \$1500, England; A. M., 33, NY; E., 4, OR; Edward, 1, OR; J.H. McClung, 22, druggist, \$400 \$2500, OH

DIED -- Thomas Belshaw died at his home four miles north of Eugene from an apoplectic stroke Sunday afternoon, October 12, at 3 o'clock. For a number of years his health had been poor, but shortly previous to his death he was in excellent spirits. The fatal stroke came about one o'clock Sunday morning and he remained unconscious until death. Mr. Belshaw was born in England in 1825 and came with his parents to America while a lad, settling at La Porte, Indiana. He came to Eugene in 1853 and for a number of years worked at the carpenter trade, afterwards engaging in the drug business. He sold out to go on a farm, hoping thereby to restore his failing health. Mr. Belshaw had a genial quality about him that made warm friends of acquaintances, and by his unswerving integrity enjoyed the confidence of all. A wife and a son and daughter, and numerous relatives, mourn his loss. The funeral took place to the I. O. O. F. cemetery Tuesday afternoon.

- 6. Ann Belshaw [did not emigrate]
- b. 18 May 1828 Nottingham, England
- d. 21 Jun 1896 Plum Gove, Lake County, Indiana
- buried [Sanders Cemetery](#), Lowell, Lake County, Indiana

- 7. Samuel Belshaw [Pioneer of 1853]
- b. 24 Jun 1830 Nottingham, England
- d. 09 Oct 1855 Rogue River, Jackson County, Oregon

1850: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, August 24, 1850; George Belshaw, 70, farmer, \$2000, England; Elisabeth, 58, England; Samuel, 19, farmer, England; Charley, 17, farmer, England

- 8. Charles Belshaw [Pioneer of 1853]
- b. 09 Mar 1833 Nottingham, England
- d. 13 Aug 1918 Canyon City, Grant County, Oregon
- buried [Canyon City Cemetery](#), Canyon City, Grant County, Oregon

m. 26 Jun 1859 Lane County, Oregon
Jane Luce [Pioneer of 1853]
b. 20 Mar 1839 Muhlenberg County, Kentucky
d. 25 Jul 1913 Grant County, Oregon
buried [Canyon City Cemetery](#), Canyon City, Grant County, Oregon
d/o Jacob Luce and Ruhama Belle Buckles

1850: West Creek Twp, Lake County, Indiana, August 24, 1850; George Belshaw, 70, farmer, \$2000, England; Elisabeth, 58, England; Samuel, 19, farmer, England; Charley, 17, farmer, England

1860: Briees, Lane County, Oregon, August 10, 1860; Charles Belshaw, 27, farmer, \$2000 \$500, England; Jane, 21, housewife, KY

WOMAN PIONEER OF 1853 DIES IN GRANT

Jane Belshaw and Husband
Were Among First to Farm
Along John Day River.

(Special to The Journal.)

John Day, July 30.—Mrs. Jane Belshaw, one of the best known pioneer women of Grant county, died at her home a few miles below here on the evening of July 25. She was 74 years old. Her maiden name was Jane Luce, and she was born in Kentucky on March 20, 1839. In 1853, in company with her parents, she crossed the plains by ox team, arriving in Oregon early the next year. On its arrival in Oregon the family settled about three miles from the present site of Eugene. On May 26, 1859, she married Charles Belshaw. In 1864 she and her husband removed to the John Day valley, three miles below the present town of John Day. At that time almost the only industry of this district was mining, but the Belshaws were among the first to demonstrate the value of John Day valley for agricultural purposes. They homesteaded a quarter section, which is now one of the finest ranches in the valley.

Throughout all the discouragements and hardships incident to pioneer life, Mrs. Belshaw maintained a serene and lovable disposition. She was always the friend of the homeless and helpless. She was one of the best known and best loved women in the John Day valley.

Funeral services were held in the Advent church of John Day Sunday afternoon. Interment took place in the Canyon City cemetery. Mrs. Belshaw is survived by her husband, two children and many more distant relatives.