

Hugh Donaldson O'Bryant

Pioneer of 1843

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

Hugh Donaldson O'Bryant

b. 05 Dec 1813 Franklin, GA

d. 09 Jan 1883 Harsford, CA

s/o Duncan O'Bryant and Martha Whitehead

m. 15 Jul 1852 Hillsboro, Washington Co, OR

Matilda Doddridge Walter

b. Jun 1823 Wayne Co, IN

d. 14 Aug 1910 Summerland, Santa Barbara Co, CA

1849: Twality, Census, Hugh D. O'Bryant, Provisional and Territorial Record #3451

1850: Portland, Washington Co, OR, December 7, 1850: H.D. O'Brien, 35, none, GA (b. 1815)
[enumerated in Job McIlmee household]

1850: No County, Military, Hugh D. O'Bryant, Military Box 187

1850: Washington Co, Census, Hugh D. O'Bryant, Provisional and Territorial Record #3450

1851: elected first mayor of Portland, OR

1854: Douglas Co, Tax Roll, Hugh D. O'Bryant, Provisional and Territorial Record #14062

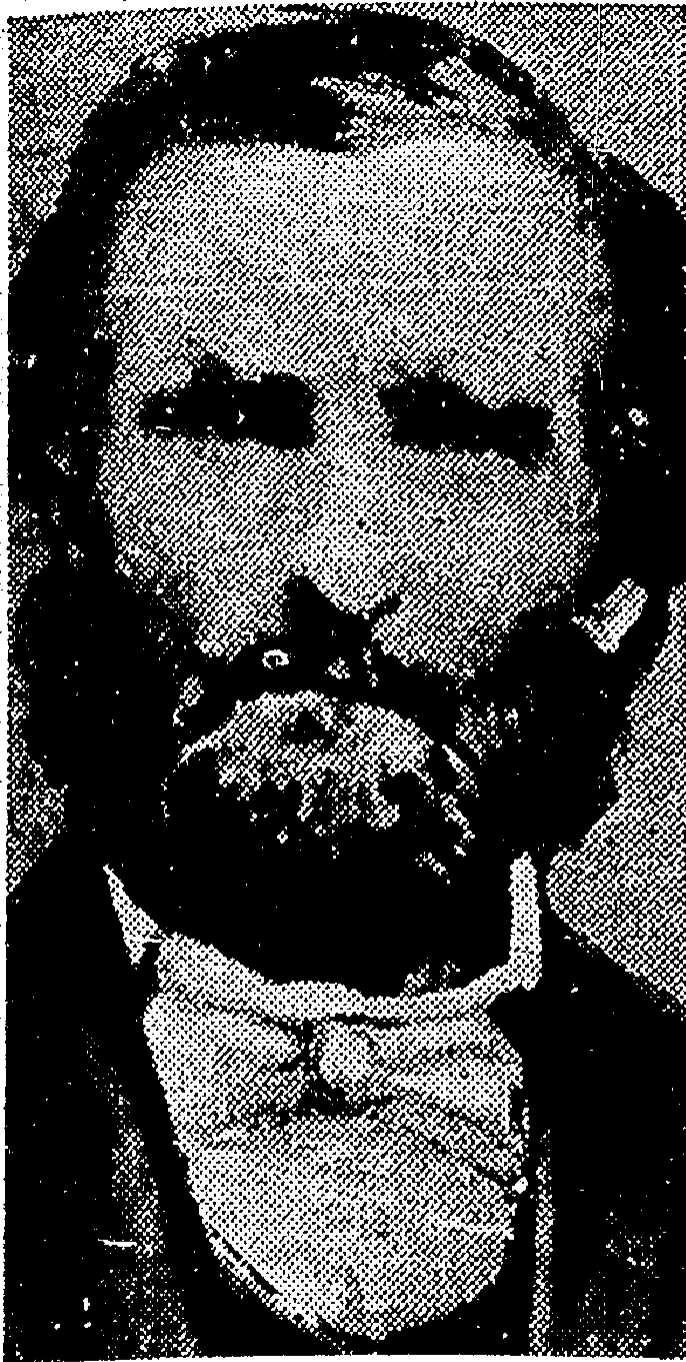
1857: Douglas Co, Tax Roll, Hugh D. O'Bryant, Provisional and Territorial Record #7992

1870: Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co, WA, July 29, 1870; H.D. O'Bryant, 55, farmer, \$1000 \$1200, GA; Matilda, 45, keeping house, IN; Rachel, 16, OR; Martha, 15, OR; Duncan, 11, OR; Walter, 9, OR; Wilson, 7, WT; Sherman, 4, WT; Sarah, 2, WT

1880: Merced, Merced Co, CA, June 14, 1880; Hugh D. O'Brien, 65, laborer, GA SC GA; Matilda, 56, wife, keeping house, IN MD PA; William Hendrick, 32, son in law, laborer, IN GA IN; Rachel, 26, dau, OR GA IN; Wilson O'Brien, 17, son, laborer, WT GA IN; Sherman, 15, son, laborer, WT GA IN; Lillian Hendricks, 2, grand dau, CA IN OR; Alice Hendricks, 2/12 (Apr), grand dau, CA IN OR

1900: Johnson Creek, Okanogan Co, WA, June 1, 1900; Sherman O'Bryant, head, June 1866, 33, s, WA GA IN, farmer; Matilda, mother, Jun 1823, 76, wd, 7-7, IN MD PA

First Mayor



Hugh D. O'Bryant, who was elected first mayor of Portland 85 years ago today by a majority of four of the 150 votes cast.

MAYOR CHOSEN 85 YEARS AGO

City Elects First Leader by Margin of Four Votes

Portland's first mayor, Hugh D. O'Bryant, was elected 85 years ago today when 150 voters gathered at a spot on Front avenue and cast their ballots under the charter newly granted by the territorial legislature.

Yesterday was the city's 85th birthday, marking the time when that charter became effective. Another milestone in the city's history is February 8, 1851, when the act incorporating the city was signed by the territorial governor and became effective. The first mayor was 38 years of age and won in the election by four votes over Joseph S. Smith.

Front Avenue Cleared

The taxable property in the city at the time amounted to \$580,960, and only Front avenue had been cleared of trees, although there the stumps still remained in the streets. These were whitewashed so they could be seen at night.

The first meeting of the city council was held April 14, 1851, and the first ordinance passed created the position of town marshal, to which Hiram Wilbur was elected on the seventh ballot. The first tax levy was for one-fourth of a cent on a dollar of valuation, and on May 26 the voters authorized a special tax to buy fire equipment.

{Oregonian, Portland, OR, Tuesday, April 7, 1936 p. 5}



This site is supposedly near the clearing where W.C. Overton and Asa Lovejoy agreed to found a town in November 1843. The square itself is named for Hugh Donaldson O'Bryant, a pioneer who migrated to Oregon from Georgia in 1843. O'Bryant was a carpenter who showed his civic pride in 1850 when he founded Portland's first public library. He was elected as Portland's first mayor in the city's first election on April 7, 1851, by receiving 104 of the 222 votes cast. [Portland Parks and Recreation]

Children of Hugh O'Brien and Matilda:

1. Rachel O'Bryant

b. 13 Jul 1853 OR

d. 18 Aug 1935

m. c1876

William Hendricks

b. 1848 IN

d.

1870: Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co, WA, July 29, 1870; H.D. O'Bryant, 55, farmer, \$1000 \$1200, GA; Matilda, 45, keeping house, IN; Rachel, 16, OR; Martha, 15, OR; Duncan, 11, OR; Walter, 9, OR; Wilson, 7, WT; Sherman, 4, WT; Sarah, 2, WT

1880: Merced, Merced Co, CA, June 14, 1880; Hugh D. O'Brien, 65, laborer, GA SC GA; Matilda, 56, wife, keeping house, IN MD PA; William Hendrick, 32, son in law, laborer, IN GA IN; Rachel, 26, dau, OR GA IN; Wilson O'Brien, 17, son, laborer, WT GA IN; Sherman, 15, son, laborer, WT GA IN; Lillian Hendricks, 2, grand dau, CA IN OR; Alice Hendricks, 2/12 (Apr), grand dau, CA IN OR

2. Martha O'Bryant

b. 1855 OR

d.

1870: Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co, WA, July 29, 1870; H.D. O'Bryant, 55, farmer, \$1000 \$1200, GA; Matilda, 45, keeping house, IN; Rachel, 16, OR; Martha, 15, OR; Duncan, 11, OR; Walter, 9, OR; Wilson, 7, WT; Sherman, 4, WT; Sarah, 2, WT

3. Duncan O'Bryant

b. 04 Nov 1857 1859 OR

d. 04 Nov 1916 Republic, Ferry Co, WA

buried Republic Cemetery, Republic, Ferry Co, WA

1870: Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co, WA, July 29, 1870; H.D. O'Bryant, 55, farmer, \$1000 \$1200, GA; Matilda, 45, keeping house, IN; Rachel, 16, OR; Martha, 15, OR; Duncan, 11, OR; Walter, 9, OR; Wilson, 7, WT; Sherman, 4, WT; Sarah, 2, WT

1900: Johnson Creek, Okanogan Co, WA, June 1, 1900; Duncan O'Bryant, head, Nov 1857, 42, s, OR GA IN, farmer

4. Walter O'Bryant

b. 1861 OR

d.

1870: Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co, WA, July 29, 1870; H.D. O'Bryant, 55, farmer, \$1000 \$1200, GA; Matilda, 45, keeping house, IN; Rachel, 16, OR; Martha, 15, OR; Duncan, 11, OR; Walter, 9, OR; Wilson, 7, WT; Sherman, 4, WT; Sarah, 2, WT

5. Wilson O'Bryant

b. 03 Feb 1863 Walla Walla Co, WA

d. 1926 Santa Barbara Co, CA

1870: Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co, WA, July 29, 1870; H.D. O'Bryant, 55, farmer, \$1000 \$1200, GA; Matilda, 45, keeping house, IN; Rachel, 16, OR; Martha, 15, OR; Duncan, 11, OR; Walter, 9, OR; Wilson, 7, WT; Sherman, 4, WT; Sarah, 2, WT

1880: Merced, Merced Co, CA, June 14, 1880; Hugh D. O'Brien, 65, laborer, GA SC GA; Matilda, 56, wife, keeping house, IN MD PA; William Hendrick, 32, son in law, laborer, IN GA IN; Rachel, 26, dau, OR GA IN; Wilson O'Brien, 17, son, laborer, WT GA IN; Sherman, 15, son, laborer, WT GA IN; Lillian Hendricks, 2, grand dau, CA IN OR; Alice Hendricks, 2/12 (Apr), grand dau, CA IN OR

1900: Johnson Creek, Okanogan Co, WA, June 1, 1900; Wilson O'Bryant, head, Feb 1863, 37, s, WA GA IN, farmer

6. Sherman O'Bryant

b. 16 Jun 1866 Walla Walla Co, WA [b. 16 Jun 1865 per CA death index]

d. 06 May 1949 San Francisco Co, CA

1870: Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co, WA, July 29, 1870; H.D. O'Bryant, 55, farmer, \$1000 \$1200, GA; Matilda, 45, keeping house, IN; Rachel, 16, OR; Martha, 15, OR; Duncan, 11, OR; Walter, 9, OR; Wilson, 7, WT; Sherman, 4, WT; Sarah, 2, WT

1880: Merced, Merced Co, CA, June 14, 1880; Hugh D. O'Brien, 65, laborer, GA SC GA; Matilda, 56, wife, keeping house, IN MD PA; William Hendrick, 32, son in law, laborer, IN GA IN; Rachel, 26, dau, OR GA IN; Wilson O'Brien, 17, son, laborer, WT GA IN; Sherman, 15, son, laborer, WT GA IN; Lillian Hendricks, 2, grand dau, CA IN OR; Alice Hendricks, 2/12 (Apr), grand dau, CA IN OR

1900: Johnson Creek, Okanogan Co, WA, June 1, 1900; Sherman O'Bryant, head, June 1866, 33, s, WA GA IN, farmer; Matilda, mother, Jun 1823, 76, wd, 7-7, IN MD PA

7. Sarah O'Bryant

b. 1868 WA

d.

1870: Waitsburg, Walla Walla Co, WA, July 29, 1870; H.D. O'Bryant, 55, farmer, \$1000 \$1200, GA; Matilda, 45, keeping house, IN; Rachel, 16, OR; Martha, 15, OR; Duncan, 11, OR; Walter, 9, OR; Wilson, 7, WT; Sherman, 4, WT; Sarah, 2, WT