

James Vanderbilt Force

Pioneer of 1842

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

James Vanderbilt Force

b. 23 Oct 1816 Ontario County, New York

d. 30 Apr 1890 Wasco County, Oregon

buried IOOF Cemetery, The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

s/o Obediah Force and Elizabeth VanHouten

m. 06 Mar 1835 Ingham County, Michigan

Leucetia Towner

b. 1814 Bath, Steuben County, New York

d. 11 May 1891 The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

buried IOOF Cemetery, The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

d/o Daniel Towner and Mary Budlong

ODLC: #3318 Marion Co; b. 1816 Ontario Co, NY; arr 07 Oct 1842; sc 30 Jul 1852; m'd Lucretia Towner 06 Mar 1838 Ingham Co, Mich; absent from claim Mar 1853 to Jul 1854 to Washington City. Note dated 10 Feb 1854 states "James Force gone to the states to purchase stock, taken sick at Salt Lake".

1845: Champoeg, Census, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #12194

1846: Spec:Mar 19-Aug20, 1846 (Adv); claim on Wallace prairie mentioned

1846: Spec: Aug 20, 1846 3:2 James Force and wife, managers of boarding dept, Oregon Institute

1847: Spec: Apr 15, 1847 (adv) accused by W.H. Rector of fraud re note

1847: Spec: Apr 29, 1847 2:1 (adv) answers to Rector

1849: Champoeg, Census, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #1078

1850: Marion County Census; James Force, 34, tavern keeper, \$6000, NY; Lucretia, 34, NY; Obediah, 11, MI; Amanda, 6, OR; Mary L., 2, OR; Jerome Lerril, 28, carpenter, OH; James Horon(?), 25, carpenter, NC; John Donaldson, 27, carpenter, unk; John Towner, 22, farmer, OH

1853: Marion County, Census, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #5287

1853: Spec: Oct 13, 1853 2:5 draft for Cayuse war claim arrives, J. Holman assignee

1853: Marion County, Tax Roll, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #12277A

1855: Marion County, Tax Roll, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #12277B

1856: Marion County, Tax Roll, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #12277C

1857: Marion County, Tax Roll, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #12277D

1858: Marion County, Tax Roll, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #12277E

1859: Marion County, Tax Roll, James Force, Provisional and Territorial Record #12277F

1860: Salem, Marion Co, OR; Jas. Force, 45, farmer, \$2500 \$600, NY; M., 38, NY; C., 21, m, farmer, MI; A., 17, f, MI; M., 11, f, OR

1861: Marion County, Women's Property, Leucetia Force, County Record #0014

1870: East of Deschutes River, Wasco Co, OR; James Force, 53, \$2500 \$560, NY; Lucretia, 53, NY; Mary, 21, OR; Carlton, 31, farmer, \$700 \$3125, MI; Thomas Jefferson, 48, farm laborer, \$0 \$350, Denmark

1880: Dist 121, Dalles, Wasco Co, OR; James V. Force, 65, farmer, NY NY NY; Lucretia, 62, NY NY NY; Mary, 31, OR

1881: TOPA: 9th Reunion 1881 p.18 John Force, emigrant of 1842

1891: Wasco County, Estate, James V. Force, County Record #A-392

OHSQ: 24-92; 31-15; 40-18; 60-222,233

In Memoriam.

James Vanderbilt Force was born in Mendon, Ontario county, New York, October 23, 1816, died in The Dalles, Wasco county, Oregon, April 30, 1890. In early life he settled in Michigan. On March 6, 1838, he was married to Miss Lucretia Towner—his now sorrowing and bereaved widow. He with his young wife and infant son, in company with a younger brother, John Force, now deceased, and a brother of his wife, Aaron Towner, also deceased, started across the plains to Oregon in the spring of 1842. After traveling as far as Green river with wagon and team they abandoned their wagons and came the remainder of their journey on horseback, reaching Salem on October 7th of the same year. After living in and near Salem until 1863 he came to Wasco county, where he has made his home ever since—most of the time in The Dalles. In all these long and eventful years he has ever been identified with the growth and development of this young and growing country—the choice of his early manhood. He was a kind and affectionate husband and father, and his memory will ever remain dear to the sorrowing and bereaved family. Those who feel most keenly this sad and sudden bereavement are his dear wife, who has ever stood heroically beside him through all the struggles of pioneer life in this country; Mr. C. O. Force, of Crook county; Mrs. A. F. Adams, wife of Rev. J. H. Adams, of East Portland, and their three-grown daughters, Mary L., Ida A. and Maggie E. Adams; and Mrs. M. L. Edwards, wife of Mr. D. W. Edwards, of The Dalles, and their young son Walter.

Thus one by one the old pioneers of Oregon are passing away. Their work has been well done, and those of us who came later will reap the rewards of their toil and the foundations they have laid so deep and well.

J. H. A.

Death of an Old Pioneer.

Last night about half-past 8 o'clock Mr. James V. Force complained of pain in the region of his heart. A physician was called, who applied the usual remedy. His family did not consider the sickness serious, and, although requested, he did not take his bed. Soon afterwards, his son-in-law, Mr. Edwards, had occasion to enter the room, and found Mr. Force on the floor. He attempted to lift him on the bed and found that he was dead. It is not known how long he had been dead when Mr. Edwards found him, but it is presumed the vital spark had just fled. Mr. Force was aged about 72 years, and came to Oregon in 1842. He has resided in this county for many years, and was a highly respected citizen. Mr. Force leaves an aged wife, having been married over fifty years, and one son and two daughters—Mrs. Edwards, of this city, and Mrs. J. H. Adams, of East Portland.

[The Dalles Times-Mountaineer, The Dalles, Oregon, May 3, 1890 p.3]

Children of James Force and Lucretia Towner:

1. Carleton Obediah Force

b. 14 May 1836 Stockbridge, Ingham County, Michigan

d. 03 Jul 1910 St. Johns, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. 26 Jun 1887 Wasco County, Oregon

Mary L. Towner

b. 18 Apr 1858

d. 09 Jan 1926 Dayton, Columbia County, Washington

buried Dayton Cemetery, Dayton, Columbia County, Washington

m1. Ellis

m2. Carleton O. Force

m3. William Bird

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1860: Salem, Marion Co, OR; Jas. Force, 45, farmer, \$2500 \$600, NY; M., 38, NY; C., 21, m, farmer, MI; A., 17, f, MI; M., 11, f, OR

OS : Feb 12, 1856 3:2 C.O. Force, Marion Co volunteer

Crossed Plains in '42.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Sept. 30.—(To the Editor.)—With reference to the paragraph from The Oregonian: "There were Forces and Pomeroy's in the immigration of 1842, but The Oregonian thinks these are some of the descendants." You are mistaken if you think I am only a descendant of James Force. I was born at the little town of Stockbridge, Mich., in the year 1838, and came to this country with my parents when I was 3 years old, in the year of 1842, and I claim that we were the first immigrants to bring wagons to what was then Oregon. We left our wagons at Fort Hall, coming the rest of the way on horseback.

My father and mother (James and Lucretia Force), John Force, Aaron Towner and a man by the name of Ely, I think, came with us. Our little party of five left the company and came on ahead, stopping a few days at Dr. Whitman's to rest up, and after securing fresh horses from Dr. Whitman, who kindly took our jaded horses and gave us fresh ones in exchange, besides giving us a guide across

the Cascade Mountains, we crossed the mountains on the north side of Mount Hood, arriving at Oregon City somewhere about October 5 or 10, 1842. CARLTON O. FORCE.

{Morning Oregonian, October 6, 1904 p.14}

FORCE—At the family residence, 713 Fox st., St. Johns, Or. Carlton O. Force, an Indian War veteran. The remains are at Finley's parlors. Funeral notice hereafter.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Monday, July 4, 1910 p. 13]

2. Amanda S. Force

b. 19 Jun 1844 Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR

d. 07 Dec 1929 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m. 25 Aug 1862 Marion Co, OR

John Henry Adams

b. 09 Feb 1840 IN

d. 25 Jan 1915 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

1870: Springfield, Lane Co, OR, July 6, 1870; John Adams, 30, preacher, \$0 \$600, IN; Amanda, 26, keeping house, OR; Mary L., 7, at home, OR; Ida A., 5, at home, OR

1880: The Dalles, Wasco Co, OR, June 3, 1880; J.H. Adams, head, 39, farmer, IN Unk Unk; Armanda (sic), 35, wife, keeps house, OR KY KY; Mary E., 16, dau, at home, OR; Ida, 15, dau, at home, OR; Maggie, 8, dau, at home, WT

1900: Portland Ward 9, Multnomah Co, OR, June 14, 1900; John H. Adams, head, Feb 1860 (sic), 40 (sic), m-38yrs, IN KY PA, merchant-produce; Amanda, wife, Jun 1846, 53, m-38yrs, 3-3, OR NY NY; Ida A., dau, Jan 1866, 34, s, OR IN OR, saleswoman

1910: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR, April 15 & 16, 1910; John H. Adams, 70, m1-47yrs, IN KY TN, gate keeper-bridge works; Amanda S., wife, 66, m1-47yrs, 3-3, OR NY NY; Ida A., dau, 45, s, OR IN OR

ADAMS—In this city, January 26, at his late residence, 1042 East Eleventh street North, John Henry Adams, aged 75 years, beloved husband of Mrs. Amanda Adams and father of Mrs. E. H. Smith, of Prineville, Or.; Miss Ida Adams and Mrs. W. K. Moser, of this city. Funeral notice in a later issue.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, January 27, 1915 p.15]

Children of John Adams and Amanda Force:

- i. Mary L. Adams (1863-)
- ii. Ida Amanda Adams (1865-1951)
- iii. Margaret Adams (1872-1939)

3. Mary Lucretia Force

b. 1849 Oregon

d. 19 Jan 1940 Hobbs, Lea County, New Mexico

buried Prairie Haven Memorial Park, Hobbs, Lea County, New Mexico

m.

Mr. Edwards

b.

d.

[note: records for Isaac Newton Edwards and his wife Mary Gilbert could easily be confused for Mary L. Force Edwards. Name of Mary Force's husband unknown]