

James Mechlin Anderson

Pioneer of 1847

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

James Mechlin Anderson

b. 03 Sep 1812 Lancaster, OH

d. 18 Dec 1899 Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

buried Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

s/o Thomas Anderson and Mary Magdaline Mechlin

m. 18 May 1848 OT

Lucy Savage (Pioneer of 1846)

b. 12 May 1828 Clyde, NY

d. 26 Dec 1914 Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

buried Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

d/o William Savage

ODLC: #777 Marion; James Anderson b. 1812 OH; sc 15 Apr 1850; m'd Lucy 18 May 1848 Salem, OR. Aff: Geo. W. Helm, John H. Bellinger, Wm. Helm. [Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims Vol 1]

1850: Marion Co, OR, January 16, 1850; James Anderson, 40, farmer, \$800, OH; Lucy, 25, OH; Elijah, 2, OR

1860: Santiam, Marion Co, OR, August 14, 1860; Jas Anderson, 48, farmer, \$12,500 \$3648, OH; L., 34, f, NY; E., 11, m, OR; I, 8, f, OR; C., 3, m, OR; W., 1, m, OR

1870: Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, August 24, 1870; Jas. Anderson, 58, farmer, \$14,450 \$2000, OH; Lucy, 42, keeping house, NY; Elijah, 21, laborer, OR; Isabell, 18, OR; Chas., 13, OR; Wm., 11, OR; Minnie E., 8, OR; Ida, 6, OR; Emma, 8/12 (Dec), OR

1880: Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, June 11, 1880; Jas. Anderson, 60, farmer, OH OH OH; Lucy, 51, wife, keeping house, NY NY NY; William, 20, son, OR; Etta, 18, dau, OR; Ida, 15, dau, OR; Emma, 10, dau, OR

Reflections of Oregon Pioneer Families, published by Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers 1994; p.5 James Mechling Anderson; in group of 10 wagons led by Rev. John McKinney

“James Mechlin Anderson was born in Lancaster, Fairfield Co., Ohio. He was the second of nine children born to Thomas and Mary Magdaline Mechlin Anderson.

James migrated from Ohio to O.T., traveling the Plains Route and arrived in Salem, O.T., in

the fall of 1847.

Following his arrival he filed for a Donation Land Claim. He secured claim 50 for land 5 miles N.W. of the present town of Jefferson. His claim was duly settled April 15, 1850.

He married Lucy Savage, 18 May 1848 in Salem. He was a devout Methodist-Charter member of Chehulpum Grange. In politics he was a member of the Republican party.

“Uncle Jimmy” as he was affectionately called by his many friends left a rich heritage of integrity and unselfish devotion to the needs of others.” [Marion County Historical Society Vol 5 p.49]

“Another Pioneer Gone—Saturday morning last Mrs. Lucy Anderson was found dead in her bed at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bertha Anderson. ‘Grandma’, as she was familiarly called by our people, was among the oldest of our pioneer residents, being 86 years and 8 months of age at the time of her death, which was due to the infirmities of old age. The funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Methodist church, an able discourse being delivered by Rev. Young, the remains being laid in the city cemetery by the side of the husband, who died in this city Dec. 3, 1899. Deceased was born in Clyde, New York, May 12, 1828, coming to Salem, Oregon in 1846. She was married to James Anderson in 1848. To this union seven children were born, five of whom, 3 daughters and 2 sons survive her. She also leaves 21 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Wonderful, indeed, are the changes ‘Grandma’ witnessed during her long and useful life, and well did she do her part as a pioneer in building up this state. It is fitting that she should be surrounded by every comfort in the sunset of her life, and that the end should be peaceful and painless.” [Jefferson Review, Jefferson, Oregon, January 1, 1915 3:4]

Children of James Anderson and Lucy Savage:

1. Elijah “Lige” Hamilton Anderson

b. 08 Apr 1849 Marion Co, OR

d. 29 Nov 1928 Salem, Marion Co, OR

1850: Marion Co, OR, January 16, 1850; James Anderson, 40, farmer, \$800, OH; Lucy, 25, OH; Elijah, 2, OR

1860: Santiam, Marion Co, OR, August 14, 1860; Jas Anderson, 48, farmer, \$12,500 \$3648, OH; L., 34, f, NY; E., 11, m, OR; I, 8, f, OR; C., 3, m, OR; W., 1, m, OR

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2. Isabella Anderson

b. 29 Oct 1852 Marion Co, OR

d. 01 Oct 1926 Salem, Marion Co, OR

m. 02 Nov 1873 Marion Co, OR

[at house of James Anderson, Marion Co, Marriage Records Bk 1 p.146]

William H. Stewart

b.

d.

1860: Santiam, Marion Co, OR, August 14, 1860; Jas Anderson, 48, farmer, \$12,500
\$3648, OH; L., 34, f, NY; E., 11, m, OR; I, 8, f, OR; C., 3, m, OR; W., 1, m, OR

1870: Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, August 24, 1870; Jas. Anderson, 58, farmer, \$14,450
\$2000, OH; Lucy, 42, keeping house, NY; Elijah, 21, laborer, OR; Isabell, 18, OR; Chas.,
13, OR; Wm., 11, OR; Minnie E., 8, OR; Ida, 6, OR; Emma, 8/12 (Dec), OR

3. Charles L. Anderson

b. 06 Dec 1857 OR

d. 05 Mar 1943 Calaveras Co, CA

1860: Santiam, Marion Co, OR, August 14, 1860; Jas Anderson, 48, farmer, \$12,500
\$3648, OH; L., 34, f, NY; E., 11, m, OR; I, 8, f, OR; C., 3, m, OR; W., 1, m, OR

1870: Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, August 24, 1870; Jas. Anderson, 58, farmer, \$14,450
\$2000, OH; Lucy, 42, keeping house, NY; Elijah, 21, laborer, OR; Isabell, 18, OR; Chas.,
13, OR; Wm., 11, OR; Minnie E., 8, OR; Ida, 6, OR; Emma, 8/12 (Dec), OR

4. William Wilbur Anderson

b. 18 Sep 1859 Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

d. 01 May 1907 Jefferson, Marion Co, OR
buried Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

m. 18 Jul 1896 Marion Co, OR

Bertha Flubacher

b. 12 Apr 1875 Germany

d. 19 Aug 1951 Alberta, Canada

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\$3648, OH; L., 34, f, NY; E., 11, m, OR; I, 8, f, OR; C., 3, m, OR; W., 1, m, OR

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13, OR; Wm., 11, OR; Minnie E., 8, OR; Ida, 6, OR; Emma, 8/12 (Dec), OR

1880: Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, June 11, 1880; Jas. Anderson, 60, farmer, OH OH OH;
Lucy, 51, wife, keeping house, NY NY NY; William, 20, son, OR; Etta, 18, dau, OR;
Ida, 15, dau, OR; Emma, 10, dau, OR

“Wm. Anderson, a well known farmer residing in Sidney precinct, dropped dead while sitting to the breakfast table on Wednesday, the cause of death being given as heart disease. He was aged about 45 years, and leaves a wife and three children, an aged mother and other relatives. Deceased, like all of us, had his failings, but he was generous to a fault, fair in all of his dealings, and leaves many who regret his early death. Funeral services are being held at the farm home this afternoon, and the remains will be laid in the Jefferson cemetery.” [Jefferson Review, Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, May 3, 1907 3:1]

Children of William Anderson and Bertha Flubacher:

- i. James Wilbur Anderson (1897-1985)
- ii. Fern Lucille Anderson (1899-1987)
- iii. Ruth Amarilla Anderson (1904-1999)

5. Minnie Etta Anderson

b. 1862 OR

d. 10 Jan 1894 Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

buried Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

m. 04 Sep 1882 Marion Co, OR

[Marion Co Marriage Records #2739 p.391]

Edward Thurman

b.

d.

1870: Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, August 24, 1870; Jas. Anderson, 58, farmer, \$14,450 \$2000, OH; Lucy, 42, keeping house, NY; Elijah, 21, laborer, OR; Isabell, 18, OR; Chas., 13, OR; Wm., 11, OR; Minnie E., 8, OR; Ida, 6, OR; Emma, 8/12 (Dec), OR

1880: Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, June 11, 1880; Jas. Anderson, 60, farmer, OH OH OH; Lucy, 51, wife, keeping house, NY NY NY; William, 20, son, OR; Etta, 18, dau, OR; Ida, 15, dau, OR; Emma, 10, dau, OR

Children of Edward Thurman and Minnie Anderson:

i. Calista Thurman

b. 27 Dec 1891

d. 28 Feb 1892

age 2mo 1 day

buried Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

6. Ida May Anderson

b. 15 Mar 865 OR

d. 27 Mar 1953 Marion Co, OR
buried Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

m. 07 Oct 1890/1 Marion Co, OR [her obit says 1890, his says 1891]

Charles S. Lynes

b. 10 Oct 1865 Galvey, IL

d. 24 Jun 1933 at Black Eagle Mine above Mehama, OR of a stroke [Jefferson Review
Jun 30, 1933 1:1]

s/o Edward Lynes

buried Jefferson Cemetery, Jefferson, Marion Co, OR

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\$2000, OH; Lucy, 42, keeping house, NY; Elijah, 21, laborer, OR; Isabell, 18, OR; Chas.,
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Ida, 15, dau, OR; Emma, 10, dau, OR

“Jefferson Native Dies In Salem Nursing Home—Funeral services were held Monday
afternoon, March 30, at 2 o’clock in the Virgil T. Golden Chapel in Salem for Ida May
Lynes, Jefferson native, who died in a Salem nursing home March 27. She was the
mother of Mrs. W.E. Skelton of Jefferson.

The Rev. E.B. Goulder officiated with interment in the Jefferson cemetery.

Ida May Anderson, daughter of James and Lucy Anderson was born on her parents’
donation land claim north of Jefferson on March 15, 1865. She was married to Charles
Lynes in Jefferson October 7, 1890, and in 1898 they moved to Idaho. Twenty-eight
years ago they moved to Brownsville and following her husband’s death in 1933, she
moved to Salem.

Mrs. Lynes had been in the nursing home since breaking her hip in a fall about a year
ago.

She was a member of Jason Lee Methodist Church in Salem.

Surviving are four children: Mrs. W.E. Skelton of Jefferson, Mrs. M.E. Doty of
Klamath Falls, Edward D. Lynes of Longview, WA, and Collie Lynes of San Jose, Calif.;;
one sister, Mrs. Emma Thorp of Salem and seven grandchildren.” [Jefferson Review,
April 3, 1953 1:4]

7. Emma Anderson

b. 1869 OR

d. 22 Jan 1955 Salem, Marion Co, OR

m.

George Tharp

b.

d.

1870: Jefferson, Marion Co, OR, August 24, 1870; Jas. Anderson, 58, farmer, \$14,450 \$2000, OH; Lucy, 42, keeping house, NY; Elijah, 21, laborer, OR; Isabell, 18, OR; Chas., 13, OR; Wm., 11, OR; Minnie E., 8, OR; Ida, 6, OR; Emma, 8/12 (Dec), OR

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“James M. and Lucy Anderson
Pioneers of 1847-1846
as remembered by James Wilbur Anderson
[contributed by Jon D. Anderson]

As we become increasingly aware of the diminishing source from which we can compile our knowledge, first hand, of the people, their traditions and every day life in Oregon, long ago, we keenly regret that more of us who had that privilege did not listen more attentively and jot down the interesting stories that were retold, over and over, of the reminiscences of our elders when memory took them back over the old trails.

But Youth is impatient, eager to live the present, and hasten on to the future, and it is only when we grow older that we pause and look backward, and try to remember those now treasured stories in which we paid so little heed at the time.

In gathering together some of these family tales and episodes that have been handed down by our grandmothers and grandfathers, we find some that were tragic, some romantic, but with a generous sprinkling of humor over all.

My Grandfather Anderson was born Sept. 3rd, 1812 in Lancaster, Ohio, where in 1810 his father Thomas Anderson had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Fairfield Co., and with his wife Mary Magdaline Mechlin Anderson, settled down to farm where the city of Lancaster now stands.

Nine children were born to them, seven sons and two daughters. Five of these sons turned their steps towards the far western wilderness. Grandfather, who had owned a store with one of his brothers in West Virginia, was the first to make the long trek to the Oregon Territory. In 1847 he left Virginia and started West. On arriving at St. Jo, Missouri, he outfitted himself with ox teams and wagon as he wanted to travel over the Plains route. His brother was to follow by boat around the Horn with a ship load of trade goods, but died enroute off the Calif. coast.

In St. Jo. He also bought a thoroughbred Morgan horse which he rode across the plains letting another man by the name of McKinney drive his ox teams. This horse later played an important part in Grandfather's affairs, as it turned out.

The wagon train which Grandfather joined was comprised of about one hundred wagons, captained by Major McGoon. In this train were the Dotys, Harrisons, and McKinneys who became his future neighbors. As the train traveled west and tempers became short, dissension

arose from time to time – until Major McGoon finally broke the train up into groups of ten wagons each, placing a wagon boss in charge of each group. The last wagon group in at night then led out the following day. Thus harmony was restored.

The trip was made without undo difficulties tho there were the usual mishaps that befell the most fortunate of the immigrants. One incident that could have proven more disastrous than it was occurred at the crossing at Greens River. The cattle by this time were gaunt and tired and it was decided to ford the river at a new crossing, two miles above the regular crossing, where the pasture was better. Matilda McKinney, wife of Wm. McKinney sat on the front wagon seat with a long whip to keep the wheel oxen moving, while Grandfather, on his horse, kept the lead oxen doing likewise, while being guided by William. Suddenly the wagon bed floated off and Matilda leaped to safety on Grandfather's horse and they made their way to an island near the opposite shore. Then Grandfather hurried back to help McKinney salvage the wagon, oxen, and most of the soaked provisions. One of the yoke of oxen was drowned, however..

When they came in to the Whitman Mission they stopped for a short rest of a few days, and it was not long after arriving in Salem, that the tragic news of the Whitman Massacre reached them, causing them to thank God they had been spared the terrible slaughter.

Grandfather at once began looking around for a place where he could farm and build his home. He took up land northwest of Looney Butte, and built a small house.

He had become a good friend with the man from whom he had bought his horse in St. Jo. as they traveled across the plains together. This man whose name was William Savage had a brother Towner Savage who had settled in Salem the year before with his wife Matilda Purdy Savage, and young niece, Lucy. Lucy was William's daughter, and what could be more romantic than to introduce his new friend to his daughter. Whether or not he acted as a matchmaker is not known, but the two duly met at Brother Towners and it was not long afterwards, on May 18, 1848 that they were married by the Methodist minister, Rev. James Wilbur.

They came out to live in the house Grandfather had built and became the proud possessors of 640 acres of land that was granted to a man and wife. Grandmother told many times how meager were the items with which they started to keep house, as house hold goods were hard to get. However, they made out, clearing land, and raising a little grain that first year.

In the Fall of 1848, when news of the gold strike in California reached Oregon, Grandfather, along with most of the Valley men, left to seek his fortune. Grandmother barely twenty years old with a scattering of neighbors, the nearest a mile away, seems to me to have been the very personification of bravery. The Indians, tho' subdued and seemingly peaceable around the valley at that time, would come by and beg for food, especially sugar. Grandmother would dole out a little in their outstretched hands, and they would usually go on their way. But one time, several arrived at the same time and demanded sugar. She complied as usual, but after hastily eating it up, wanted more. Not wanting to part with any more, but afraid of making them angry, she finally told one Indian who seemed the leader, "No more left – just a little spoonful to chief", and gave it to him. This, fortunately, satisfied them and they went on their way, leaving Grandmother shaking in her shoes! Another time she thwarted a couple of rough claim jumpers by pointing her trusty Kentucky rifle thru the door and ordering them to leave or she would shoot. They too left, for they knew full well she could carry out her threat if need be.

While Grandfather was still in California, Uncle 'Lige was born. Mrs. Mary Nye, her closest neighbor took care of her, and stayed with her until she could be about.

When Grandfather returned from California they began to farm in earnest. Grandfather bought more land from time to time, and in looking over the old deeds and papers of the early fifties one can see that his knowledge of farming and stockraising was put to good use. Now that they had become established and Grandfather was on the way to becoming a successful farmer, the plans for a new house began to formulate. In 1855, the house, a large modified Georgian Colonial frame house of ten rooms was a reality. By this time a little girl Isabel had been born to them, and in 1857, another son, Charles.

So in the span of ten frontier years, two years before Oregon became a state, Grandfather had acquired a wife, three children, a fine home and many acres of land.

Later, William, born in 1859 – Minnietta in 1862 – Ida in 1865 and Emma in 1869, comprised the Anderson family. An adopted son Claude (McClure, James Claude) was taken into the family in the seventies.

Always adding improvements to increase the comfort for his family, Grandfather had the upstairs finished, adding three more bed rooms, and built a summer kitchen and brick milk cellar adjacent to the woodshed. He had quite a herd of Spanish cattle, also sheep and horses. The first barn was built below the hill to the north of the house, and later a large horse barn was built on the south. The sheep barns were about a quarter of a mile across the field.

He planted a large apple orchard in 1865, and later planted cherry and prune trees back of the barn. Some of the cherry trees were still bearing when we came out in 1924, but have since died. A few prune trees still bear fruit.

Grandfather kept diaries for each year, and it was said that as each of his children married he gave them the diary for that year as a keep sake. Only one of his diaries have been saved as far as we know, and it was not complete. But it is interesting to note the items jotted down – the work being done – when the garden and crops were planted – the number of barrels of apples taken to Salem and sold – the price of wool, 17 ½ ¢ a pound, and all the homey little things of his daily life.

Grandfather was a deeply religious man, with strong convictions of right and wrong. He had joined the Methodist Church in Lancaster as a boy of 16 and all his life was a devoted church member. There were few Sundays that he did not attend church or Sunday School. He was a kindly man – no one was ever turned away from his door if in need, and he was always ready with a helping hand.

He took an active part in the affairs of his community, and wanted his children to take advantages of the education offered at that time beyond the common school level. Several attended Willamette University. He and Grandmother deeded an acre of land to School District No. 12, upon which the Sidney school is located, on the provision that it would be used for school purposes.

When the Chehulpum Grange No. 68 as organized in 1873, Grandfather was named Chaplain, as position he held continuously from 1873 to 1887. In an old autograph book presented to him after his fourteen years of service in that capacity, are the autographs of many of the early pioneers. Among the officers are the names of H. Galvin, overseer; - Charles Miller, lecturer; - Lou Miller, Sec. E.W. Hahn, gate keeper – James Anderson, Chaplain; - and D.H. Looney, Steward.

Grandfather and Grandmother also belonged to the Oregon Pioneers association, and attended the early meetings held in Salem and Champoeg.

He was a Republican all his life. His brother, Levi who settled in Portland in 1851 was a delegate, from Washington Co. to the Constitutional Convention in 1857, and voted with the Free Staters as against those wanting Oregon to have slavery.

Grandfather became blind a few years before his death but still retained a keen interest in all that went on about him. But now that all their children were grown and married, he and grandmother turned the farm over to my father and moved to town. Dad farmed several hundred acres besides running lots of stock and horses. He bought a Buffalo Pitt Threshing machine, the first steam traction engine in this part of the valley and did threshing for his neighbors for several years. He finally sold the rig to [Jacob Siegmund](#) of Stayton.

Of the five brothers who so intrepidly started from their homes in the "States" to the Oregon Territory, only Grandfather lived to see Oregon well on her way of attaining the half century of her State hood. His youngest brother was accidentally shot en route to the gold fields in 1851. One died enroute around the Horn, one, soon after coming to Oregon in 1853, and Levi in 1889.

Grandfather did not live long after moving to Jefferson, and passed away Dec. 18, 1899. Grandmother passed away Dec. 26, 1914, at our home in Jefferson, where we had moved after Dad's death in 1907.

Grandfather had provided each of his children with a prosperous farm before he died, but as the years went by many of these passed out of the family, until at this time, there are only about five hundred acres belonging to his descendants.

The house he built over a hundred years ago is little changed, and stands sturdily on its stone foundation, a symbol of that indomitable pioneer spirit that has endured the century.

Ruth M. Anderson"