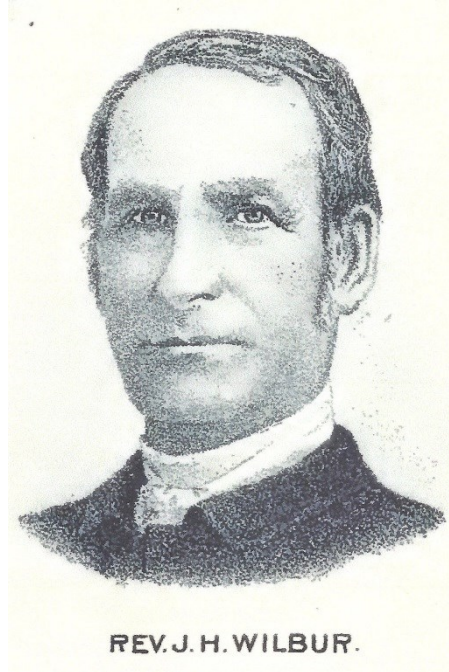


Rev. James H. Wilbur

Pioneer of 1846

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com



James H. Wilbur DD

b. 11 Sep 1811 Louisville, St. Lawrence County, New York

d. 28 Oct 1887 Portland, Oregon

buried Lee Mission Cemetery, Plot OLD 148-02

m. 09 Mar 1831 Lowville, Lewis County, New York

Lucretia Ann Stephens

b. 09 Apr 1812 Lowville, Lewis County, New York

d. 30 Sep 1887

buried Lee Mission Cemetery, Plot OLD 148-03

Note: The biography on Rev. Wilbur lists his middle name as Harvey, while his obituary states that it is Hiram. Other sources researched do not specify a middle name and only note the middle initial.

1840: Lowville, Lewis County, New York, Jas H. Wilbur; 1 male (20-29): 1 female (5-9); 1 female (20-29)

WILBUR (Wilber) (Rev), James H
arrs Col r June 22 with wife
and dau [from N Y] on Whiton,
1847: 8 July 47, 2:3, 3:3 [Oregon Spectator Index]

1848: James H. Wilbur and A.F. Waller appointed to Salem Circuit [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.71]

"Soon after his arrival in Oregon, Wilbur was appointed to the Oregon Institute, now Willamette University, and he ascended the Willamette River in a small boat. The first day he got as far as Butteville, where he stayed overnight with a settler by the name of Hall. The second day brought him to the mouth of the Yamhill river. He lay on the ground that night with a bearskin for a cover, and a couple of blankets, but his rest was broken by howling wolves, and screaming beasts. Besides it rained and the water fell on his unsheltered head. One of his helpers, a Kannacker, kneaded a bit of dough which he baked on a board and broiled a piece of beef, for their breakfast. After breakfast, prayer was said and they started up stream. But the stream was swift, and the water was shallow, and they were forced to wade the river and pull the boat. Wilbur was up to his waist in water and rain fell from the clouds. The third night he slept on the ground again and the next day the boat moved upwards about ten miles. Wilbur was in the water most of the day. They went into camp again and remained over Sunday.

Wilbur wrote "Never did I spend a Sabbath like this since I experienced religion. I had little satisfaction in conversing with the men; they seemed to be the devil's own subjects and determined to do the devil's work."

The next day, five days from Oregon City, tired and hungry and sick he arrived in Salem, where he was received with great cordiality and entertained by Josiah L. Parrish.

Wilbur added to the record as sort of post-script, "I should have said that I took supper with Sister Willson and never do I remember to have eaten a meal that I relished so well."

Wilbur, at this time, was a young man in his prime, 36 years of age. He was six feet two inches in height, straight as an arrow, deep chested and powerful. He was fearless and cool, no stranger to hardship. But even such a man found the demands upon an itinerant Methodist preacher about all he was able to endure." [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.109-110]

1849: James H. Wilbur and J.L. Parrish assigned to Oregon City and Portland Circuit [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.82]

1849:

will furnish information re Ore
institute, 10 Ag 48, 3:2; signs
Ore institute adv of school-
books, 7 S 48 to 22 F 49 (adv)

[Oregon Spectator Index]

1850:

unable to conduct service at
Ore Cy Meth church, 7 F 50,
2:2

of Meth church; activities at
dedication of 1st Cong church,
Ore Cy, 22 Ag 50, 2:6
praises Elder Fisher's school,
Ore Cy; advocates common
schools, 29 Ag 50, 2:3
signs dedication notice of M E
church, Portland, 7 N 50, 3:2
activities at Portland immigrant
aid mtg, 14 N 50, 2:4

[Oregon Spectator Index]

1850: "The Conference of 1850 met at Oregon City, Sept. 5th, for its second session with five members present: William Roberts, David Leslie, William Helm, Alvin Waller and James H. Wilbur" Circuit [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.83]

1850: Portland, Washington County, Oregon, December 7, 1850; James H. Wilbur, 39, Methodist minister, NY; Lucretia A., 38, Mass; John Flinn, 32, Methodist minister, Ireland; Nehemiah Doane, 30, Methodist minister, Mass; Matilda Doane, 35, VT

1850-51: James H. Wilbur and James O. Raynor assigned to Portland and the Columbia River. Circuit [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.84]

1850: In 1850 J.H. Wilbur came to Lebanon and organized the first Methodist Church and literally hewed out with his powerful hands a log building for their church and their school. It stood on the northeast corner of the present high school campus. [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.159]

mem Ore Bible soc, 13 Je 50, 1:3;
addresses mtg, 12 Je 51, 3:1
mgr of Ore Tract soc, 13 Je 50,
1:4; attends mtg, 26 Je 51,
2:5; bd mem, 10 F to 16 Mr

1850-52: 52 (adv)

[Oregon Spectator Index]

1851-52: James H. Wilbur and C.S. Kingsley assigned to Portland and Vancouver. Circuit [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.87]

1852-53: James H. Wilbur assigned to Yamhill. [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.89]

1853: A Committee consisting of William Roberts, Alvin F. Waller, and J.H. Wilbur was appointed to gather up and deposit with the Secretary Documents of interest connected with the work of the church in this country for safe keeping. At the same meeting "The Preacher in charge at Portland and J.H. Wilbur were appointed a committee to secure a charter for the Portland Academy." [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.97]

1853-54: J.H. Wilbur, Presiding Elder was assigned to the Umpqua Mission in Southern Oregon. [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.101,119]

1853: "Rev. Wilbur proceeded to establish headquarters for his Umpqua Mission by taking up a land claim and building a residence. During the Conference year, 1853-54, he also built a rough log schoolhouse just east of his home, which was to become Umpqua Academy. Both buildings were on his land claim. Yet, during that year Wilbur did not neglect the work in Southern Oregon. Indeed, so successful was he that at the next Conference, five pastoral appointments were required besides that of James H.B. Royal as Principal of Umpqua Academy." [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.165]

1854-55: J.H. Wilbur was assigned to the Umpqua Mission District in Southern Oregon. [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.103]

1860: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 14, 1860; J.H. Wilbur, 48, ME minister, NY; L.A., 48, Mass

1860-1870: J.H. Wilbur appointed to Indian Missions [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.277]

1866: J.H. Wilbur was named to be superintendent of the Yakima Indian Mission District. He was to be a Missionary at Large and was to visit all the reservations and agencies. The Yakima Indian Mission was established in 1866, with J.H. Wilbur at the Pastor, or Missionary, but it was not until 1872 that he became Presiding Elder. It should be said that the appointee was probably most successful missionary to the Indians that Oregon (or Washington) ever saw....Rev. Wilbur was not only loved and trusted by the Indians as probably no other Missionary in all the history of Oregon Indian Missions, but he was also, for many years, a highly respected and trusted agent of the Government. [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.143-44]

1868: J.H. Wilbur appointed to Board of Trustees of Vancouver Academy. [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.172]

1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 21, 1870; J.H. Wilbur, 58, ME minister, \$13,500 \$3500, NY; Lucretia A., 58, keeping house, \$1500 \$0, Mass; Hannah Gorman, 60, black, domestic, \$1500 \$400, VA

1871: J.H. Wilbur appointed to Indian Missions [A History of Oregon Methodism by Thomas D. Yarnes DD p.277]

1880: Fort Simcoe, Yakima County, Washington, June 23 & 24, 1880; H. James Wilbur, 68, Indian Agent, NY MA MA; A, Lucretia, 68, wife, keeping house, MA MA MA; Lovie Whitcomb, boarder, 19, teacher, MI PA NY



"Funeral of Father Wilbur--Services held at the M.E. Church--Buried beside his Wife, in Lee Mission Cemetery--The remains of Father Wilbur having been brought up on Sunday night, from Portland, where memorial services were conducted in the morning, the funeral services were conducted in the presence of a large congregation, in the M.E. church, yesterday morning. Many of the audience had known the deceased in former years, and had been co-laborers with him in his pioneer missionary work in this city. Recitations were dismissed at Willamette university, of which throughout its entire history, from its struggling infancy to the comparatively prosperous present, Father Wilbur had been the steadfast friend and substantial supporter, and the students were present in force. The services were conducted by Rev. Wm. Roberts, Rev. H.K. Hines, and Rev. I.D. Driver, for many years intimate friends of the deceased, assisted by Rev. Sam. Driver, Rev. N. Doane, Rev. W.S. Harrington, Rev. J.L. Parrish, and Rev. C. Alderson, and the regular choir, under the leadership of Dr. Hall, Messrs. Roberts, Driver, and Hines in turn paid tribute to the memory of the noble pioneer missionary, whose entire life had been spent in sustaining by his energy and money the early civilization of the northwest, and in Christianizing the untutored Indians of this then savage country. In this work he had been more or less aided by each of the three gentlemen, whose recital of the early hardships undergone by the self-denying pioneer minister scarcely less affected themselves than their audience.

The remains were at 12 o'clock followed to Lee Mission cemetery by a long procession, the church bell tolling solemnly the requiem of him who had spent forty-one years of unselfish effort

for the good of his fellow men. The services at the grave consisted of the recital of the Methodist ritual by Revs. Hines, Roberts, and Doane. Mr. Wilbur's body was interred by that of his wife, who preceded him so shortly to the other shore. It is intended to bring up from Portland the remains of the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur, who is buried in the same lot as the Taylor Street M.E. church, and inter them beside those of her parents.

James Hiram Wilbur was born in Louisville, N.Y., September 14, 1811; was licensed to exhort June 27, 1840; was ordained a minister of the M.E. Church January 4, 1842; came to Portland, Or., June 27, 1846, and from that blessed day to the day of his death he has ever been a faithful minister of his honored church, and, like his Master, 'went about doing much good.' His first charge was at Salem, where he built the first church (sic-was not involved in the building of the first church in Salem) . He also built the first churches in Portland and at Oregon City. During his useful, pure and holy life on this coast, the good father helped to build not less than nine church buildings and seven parsonages. He annually contributed about \$3300 toward church and charit-able purposes. He was the founder of the Portland Female academy, and of the Wilbur academy at Wilbur, Or.

Father Wilbur was a builder and a tower of strength in his church, and his life was as pure as that of a saint. He held the honorable position of educational agent of the M.E. church of the Columbia conference from 1861 to 1882; was instructor and Indian agent at For Simcoe, W.T., during the same period, going to Walla Walla in 1882 and remaining there ever since.

Father Wilbur was the son of an honest farmer, who was a deacon in the Presbyterian church. When the venerable old man returned to Walla Walla recently..."WOS Nov 4, 1887 5:2

"Mrs. Wilbur's Funeral--The body of Mrs. J.H. Wilbur was brought up on last night's train, and the funeral services will be held at the M.E. church at 10 this morning, and will be conducted by Rev. H.K. Hines, Rev. Roberts and probably Rev. I.D. Driver. Of Mrs. Wilbur the Oregonian says: 'Mrs. Wilbur came to this coast among the early missionaries. Her husband built and was the first pastor of Taylor street M.E. church. Father Wilbur helped to clear the land on which Portland now stands and built the Portland seminary and Umpqua academy. For many years Father Wilbur was Indian agent at Yakima. While her husband for many years occupied these responsible positions Mother Wilbur was in the truest sense of the word a "helpmate.' Mother Wilbur was cultured and truly refined. As a christian her piety was deep and her walk always consistent. Her presence was always felt for good, and the circles where she moved were moulded by the impress of her beautiful life. She passed away from her earthly home at a good age in great peace, but her pure life and fully developed christian character will long live among her many acquaintances." WOS Oct 7, 1887 5:3

REV. JAMES HARVEY WILBUR, D.D.—

It will not be claimed that the plain people, whose lives are briefly recorded in this volume, merit the title of greatness. They were simple honest men who did their duty. They merit a niche in the halls of our history, since it was they who hewed out the stones with which this stately structure has been built. It requires very great qualities to be called great. In many regards, such as self-reliance, ability to live alone with little or no inspiration or motive except such as they found within themselves, the power to propose their own plan and theory of life, and to hold their lives up to its requirements, the pioneers and frontiersmen of the Pacific coast show qualities very much like those of the great men of history; and we almost think that, if their field had been as great as that of others, their fame might not have been less.

One of the great-hearted men of the early days, now passed away, was "Father Wilbur." He has

been everywhere known. His memory will be revered; and the boys of Oregon should be taught his heroic virtues. As a friend of the Indians, he deserves special mention; for the Indian War Veterans are most prompt of all in recognizing whatever is worthy and good in the Indian character as brought out by kind treatment and discipline.

Mr. Wilbur was born in New York State in 1811, and in 1846 was sent out as a missionary to Oregon by the Missionary Society of the Methodist-Episcopal church. He came around Cape Horn in the bark *Whitton*, Captain Gelston, a trim little vessel, noted in pioneer days. Upon the voyage he had a characteristic adventure. Being of a very active and bold disposition, he was always ready to do work on the ship to relieve the tedium of the voyage, and while in the tropics was taking a hand in painting,—in fact, working on the outside. He fell off his board, paint bucket and all. The ship was going eight knots; and it was half an hour before he was picked up. With his usual self-control, he had made no effort except to keep afloat, and when he was taken on board was none the worse for his misadventure.

Upon reaching Oregon, in June, 1847, he found Portland a city of three houses; and his circuit, of which Salem was the center, reached out south seventy-five miles, and embraced the entire width of the Willamette valley. There was then but one Protestant church edifice on the Pacific coast, the Methodist church still standing at Oregon City, the then metropolis of the Northwest. Mr. Wilbur set to work with great earnestness, multiplying himself by means of Cayuse ponies, and preaching with the fervor of a Paul wherever he found a listener. Perhaps there is no greater strain upon one's spiritual fiber than to live in a sparse community and be dependent only upon one's self for impetus. Wasting one's self "upon the desert air" quickly exhausts the life and saps the vigor of one not endowed with living fervor of his own. Mr. Wilbur, however, grew with his work; and many were the rough mountain men and the neglected immigrants who were led to a decent christian life by his preaching. While at Salem he also conducted the Oregon Institute, now the Willamette University with the assistance of his wife, teaching the boys and girls of the science and art beyond the mountains.

Two years later he was appointed to the circuit embracing Oregon City and Portland, and in 1850 built the first church in the latter city. The Methodist church and parsonage cost five thousand dollars. Mechanics received twelve dollars per day; and lumber was one hundred and twenty dollars per thousand. In the following year Mr. Wilbur erected the Portland Academy and Female Seminary at a cost of eight thousand eight hundred dollars. In both these enterprises he did much work himself, going about in his striped shirt, and mixing mortar and carrying hods. Sixteen thousand dollars in all was raised for these and other church purposes during the two years of his pastorate in Portland.

His next charge, his allotted two years expiring in Portland, was as presiding elder of the Umpqua district. It was a serious undertaking to move such a distance, over unfrequented roads, and across

His next move was back to the Willamette valley, being appointed presiding elder of the Willamette district in 1857. Having a keen business head, he saw many opportunities for buying land or lots cheap, and in this way made a large number of purchases all the way from Umpqua to Walla Walla, which rose in value and placed him in easy financial circumstances. It was in this way that he obtained means for his large benevolences. Being again in the Portland district, he paid a visit, in 1859, to his field in the wilds, "east of the mountains." At The Dalles he bought a Cayuse horse for the journey; but the brute took occasion to run off soon after, leaving the itinerant to foot it across the hills to the Blue Mountains. He was on the march fifty-four hours without a meal. He could have gotten one at The Dalles; but that was the wrong direction. The result of his tramp was the organization of a church of seven members at Walla Walla, the purchase of a block of land, and the erection of a small church edifice thereon. That city then consisted of about five houses of very narrow dimensions. It

was not all serene for the elder. While he was preaching some of the baser men of the place got up a cattle auction within fifty feet, trying, perhaps, to make an equally attractive show.

In 1860 began Wilbur's work for the Indians on the Yakima reservation, which has become famous throughout the Union. The Yakimas, with a number of other tribes, were wild, sullen, and wholly averse to civilization. There were some three thousand assigned to that reservation; and even upon that ample domain there was no wild living for that number. Their only interest in remaining was for the government annuities; and their only incentive was fear of the troops. Mr. Wilbur was appointed superintendent of instruction, and at once opened a school, gathering in the children; and his wife, without asking a cent of pay, immediately began the process of cleaning, training, teaching and winning them. The work was but well under way, about a year after his appointment, when Kendall, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, dismissed Wilbur without explanation. Upon his proffer of service without pay, he was sent from the reservation.

He appealed to the government, however, and was not only sustained, but was appointed as agent, with plenary powers. As he assumed the entire administration of the agency, his aim of Indian training was to bring his wards to the point of self-support. No annuities were allowed except for an equivalent in work. In a short time grains, vegetables and cattle, sufficient for sustenance, and even for export, were produced. The children at the schools were taught different trades. A steam mill (saw and grist) and house were put up by the Indians worth fifteen thousand dollars. They also built four churches of a seating capacity of two hundred each, and one of six hundred and fifty, completed in every particular by themselves. For twenty-two years the Wilburs remained at their post, bringing their Indians up to a very high level of thrift and prosperity. In 1882 they were reluctantly, after repeated resignations, allowed to go; and they took up their residence at Walla Walla.

Father Wilbur died at Walla Walla in 1887,—one of Oregon's best loved and most renowned pioneers; a man of virile qualities and a noble heart; ready for all sorts of work; a great philanthropist; faithful to his ministry and his God; and well worthy to stand in that noble company of Methodist preachers embracing, besides himself, Lee, Leslie, Waller, Hine, and others who wrought with them and after them in the same fields and with like devotion.

[History of the Pacific Northwest Vol 2 p.631-2]

MOTHER WILBUR (1812-1887)

by EMMA ROYAL O'SULLIVAN

LUCRETIA ANN STEVENS, daughter of Joseph and Mary Stevens, was born in Cheshire, Mass. April 9, 1812. She was married to James H. Wilbur in New York on March 9, 1831. They lived in Lowville, New York until 1846. During that time they were both converted and joined the Methodist church. Mr. Wilbur was a born leader of men, he stood six feet four inches, and was very strong. He had been a "Bowery" policeman, and a sheriff, and had learned the painters' trade. After his conversion he wished to become a preacher of the Gospel.

By his side was always his wife. A letter written in 1839 to the Rev. Nathan Bangs, Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Methodist church, contains the following recommendation of Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Wilbur:

Lowville, N. Y., Dec. 29, 1839

Rev. and Respected Brother:

This is to inform you that our brother, James H. Wilbur, and his wife, Lucretia Ann, are desirous of being employed as missionary teachers, either in this country or in foreign lands.

The following statements may be relied upon as facts: They have both been members of our church for 5 or 6 years, and as such have sustained themselves unblamably. They are well

acquainted with the doctrines and usages of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and conform to them in sentiment and practice with remarkable correctness. They both profess to enjoy the blessing of perfect love, and so far as we can discover manifest its fruits.

Brother Wilbur is a class-leader, he is very correct and successful; as an exhorter his ability is fully up to mediocrity. Sister Wilbur's talent for speaking and praying is quite considerable and very happy. They are very correct, uniform and frugal in the affairs of their family. They have but one child, a daughter eight years of age. In family government they are united, and have the happy art of blending strictness and mildness in administering family discipline. They have both been employed for a long time in teaching a day school in this village, and in that capacity are very acceptable and successful. Their education is rather more than ordinary.

They are both agreeable in their personal appearance and address, and are very industrious and successful in visiting families. They enjoy the confidence and respect of all Christians and the citizens generally.

In pecuniary point they are unembarrassed, and have some means at their command. Brother Wilbur is by occupation a painter, and is 28 years old. Sister Wilbur is 26; and should they be wanted as teachers in any part, at home or abroad, they would be ready to engage upon short notice.

We are, dear brother, yours very respectfully, and affectionately,
WILLIAM S. BOWDISH, P. E. Gouverneur District
ELIJAH SMITH, Preacher in Charge
LUKE WILDER, Recording Secretary
WILLIAM L. EASTON, Leader

--
In 1842 Rev. Wilbur joined the Black River Conference in New York and he served churches there until 1846 when he was appointed "Missionary to Oregon."

On the 27th day of November, 1846, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur boarded the ship "Whiton" for Oregon, going via Cape Horn. The trip took seven months. En route Mr. Wilbur could not be satisfied to do nothing, so did evangelistic work among the crew and passengers and held services on Sundays. One day he reverted to his trade as painter and was helping the sailors painting the ship, when the plank on which he was standing tipped on end and he fell into the sea. A rope was thrown to him but it was too short, then boards, benches and a door were thrown into the sea. Swimming to the door he seized it and kept on top of the water until rescued in a little boat about fifteen minutes later.

Referring to this experience in the deep, he used to say that he had found religion a good thing on land, on sea, and in the sea.

The Wilburs reached San Francisco in April, 1847, and stayed there six weeks. At that time San Francisco was a village of only sixty-four tenements. While there, the Wilburs organized the first Sunday School in California. Then once more they boarded the "Whiton" for Oregon.

They arrived in Baker's Bay across the river from Astoria on June 27, 1847, thirteen years after Jason Lee had started the mission near Salem in the Willamette valley. Portland was a few cabins in a dense forest; Salem, a small mission station; Oregon City was the great business mart of the Northwest, and it contained only a few hundred people. Stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean was a vast virginal land waiting to be taken over by civilization. Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur were one in life, purpose, and labors. In Salem,

Mrs. Wilbur taught in the Oregon Institute, now Willamette University. In Portland, in 1850, they built the first church, known as Taylor Street Church; the next year they built the "Portland Academy and Female Seminary", the first school of "higher learning" in Oregon. Mr. Wilbur cut down trees, carpentered, painted, and did all kinds of labor on these buildings. Their work was hard and self-denying.

In 1849 their only daughter married Rev. St. Michael Fackler, a minister of the Episcopal church. In 1850 she died at the birth of a daughter, Anne Elizabeth Fackler. Mrs. Wilbur took the tiny granddaughter to her home and kept her for years until the father had a home for her at Butteville. Little "Libby" was with them during the four years they were in southern Oregon where Mr. Wilbur was Superintendent of the Umpqua District from 1854 to 1858.

While in this district they built the Umpqua Academy on their donation land claim, from which the present town of Wilbur is named. They were affectionately called Father and Mother Wilbur by all who knew them in Oregon.

In 1862 Father Wilbur was appointed to Fort Simcoe as Missionary of Education to the Indians, where for the next twenty years this couple gave their lives and devotion to the uplift of the native people. They were seventy-five miles north of The Dalles. The Indians had been on the warpath, nearly four thousand of them of eight tribes. They were wild, rebellious, ferocious, with a history of massacres, scalplings, killings, and burnings. They refused to settle down on the reservations allotted to them. The Indian agent had fled in fear for his life. Attempts had been made on the life of Governor Stevens, and the Civil War had called away the regular soldiers. The Indians were starving and resentful because the treaties had not been kept, and their old fishing grounds and game trails were denied them. They still hoped to destroy all the whites.

Into this situation came Father and Mother Wilbur. Mr. Wilbur went to Washington in 1864 and talked with President Lincoln and was appointed Indian Agent. He at once proceeded with a plan to remove fear from the hearts of the Indians. He gave every man a farm, seeds, tools, and cattle, and carried out the terms of the treaty as nearly as he could. He appointed Chief Moses as his chief of police and talking with the other chiefs won their confidence. He built a mill and cut lumber for the Indians' homes. He hired a farmer to teach them how to plow and plant. He gave them education, culture and religion. The Indians there at Fort Simcoe called Father Wilbur "the man who knew God."

Mrs. Wilbur, as consecrated as her husband, was his constant helper. She had sixty Indian children under her control in the boarding school. She taught them English, sewing, cooking, honesty, truthfulness. Among the products of the Wilburs' labors and Christian training were Chief White Swan, George Waters, and Thomas Pearne, who became ministers in the Methodist church. Many others owed their conversion to the Wilburs. Even fifty years later, when someone was seeking a dependable workman, one might hear the remark, "Send to the reservation and see if you can get a 'Father Wilbur Indian'."

In 1883, Father and Mother Wilbur entered another field of Christian enterprise with church extension and missionary work in the Columbia River Conference. Dr. H. K. Hines said, "We may think no years of Mother Wilbur's life were more fruitful of good than the five years after she was seventy years of age."

In September, 1887 she was attending the Idaho Conference with her husband when she was taken ill. On September 25 she was taken to her home at Walla Walla, and on September 30 she passed to her reward. As she was dying her husband said to her, "Before you get settled in Heaven, I'll be there." Within a month he followed her in death. They had lived together for fifty-six years." [With Her Own Wings p. 79-82]

Child of James Wilbur and Lucretia Stephens:

Ann Elizabeth Wilbur

b. 1831-1835 New York

**d. 22 Feb 1851 upon the birth of her daughter Ann Elizabeth Fackler
buried Lee Mission Cemetery, Plot OLD 148-01**

m. c1849 Rev. St. Michael Fackler

"Will Be Removed To Salem--The remains of Father Wilbur, the Methodist missionary, are interred in Lee Mission cemetery, near this city, as is also the body of his wife. They died within a few days of each other and were interred where it was their wish to rest. Their daughter, Mrs. Fackler, who preceded them to the grave by several years, and who used to live in Salem, was buried in the cemetery near the Taylor street M.E. church in Portland. Now the city has grown all around and about that once retired little cemetery. The bodies were all removed long ago--all except one, that of the pioneer missionary's daughter. Over it many years ago a building, which is not occupied by the Pacific Christian Advocate, was built over her grave. This property has been sold to the A.O.U.W. of Portland, and in early spring that order will build a fine block on the site. In this event the body of Mrs. Falker will, no doubt, be exhumed and given interment in the Mission cemetery at Salem. This Rev. Wilbur intended to do, but death overtook him before his purpose was carried out. The trustees of Willamette University will, it is probable, have the interment made." OS Oct 30, 1890 4:2