John Sappingfield
Pioneer of 1847
compiled by Stephenie Flora and Deb Merrick
oregonpioneers.com

John Sappingfield
b. 25 Nov 1809 Davis Co, NC
d. 7/8 Mar 1903 Howell Prairie, Marion Co, OR
buried Howell Prairie Cemetery, Howell Prairie, Marion Co, OR

m. 27 May 1838 Des Moines Co, IA
Mary Amelia Hagey (Pioneer of 1847)
b. 07 Dec 1820 NC
d. 26 Aug 1911
buried Howell Prairie Cemetery, Howell Prairie, Marion Co, OR
d/o Andrew Hagey and Catherine Grimes

ODLC: #2060 Marion; John Sappingfield, b. 1812/3 Davie Co, NC; arr 31 Oct 1847 or 10 Jun 1848; sc 15 Oct 1848; m'd Mary Hagerty (sic-Hagey), May 1838 Des Moines Co, IA. Aff: Wm. Murphey, Caleb P. Chapman

1850: Marion Co, OR; John Sapingfield (sic), 39, farmer, $2000, NC; Mary, 31, NC; William, 12, IA; Louisa, 9, IA; George, 5, IA

1860: Howell Prairie, Marion Co, OR, July 10, 1860; John Suttenfield (sic), 49, farmer, $4000 $5000, NC; M., f, 40, NC; W., 21, m, farmer, IA; G., 15, m, IA; A., 7, f, OR; J., 2, m, OR; H., 3/12, OR; 4 men from various locations, J. Sappingfiel, 60, $0 $200, PA


1880: Howell Prairie, Marion Co, OR, June 1, 1880; John Sappingfield, 70, farmer, NC NC NC; Mary, 60, wife, keeping house, NC NC NC; Charles, 18, son, farm laborer, OR NC NC

1900: Macleay, Marion Co, OR; John Sappingfield, head, Nov 1809, 90, m-62yrs, NC NC NC; Mary, wife, Jan 1820, 80, m-62yrs, 7-5, NC NC NC [living between sons Henry and Charles]
Heirs: Mary Sappingfield, widow, 82, Marion Co; William Sappingfield, son, 63, Klicitat Co, WA; Amanda King, dau, 50, Marion Co; Henry A. Sappingfield, son, 42, Marion Co; Charles Sappingfield, son, 40, Marion Co; Betty Sappingfield Merrick, grdtr, Polk Co; Nellie Sappingfield Beardsley, grdtr, Weiser, ID; George Sappingfield, grandson, last known CA; Lilly Sappingfield Stoey, grdtr, Yamhill Co; Bryant Sappingfield, grdson, 20, Weiser, ID; Iva Sappingfield (married) grdtr, Weiser, ID; Carrie Sappingfield, grdtr, 17, Yamhill Co; Alexander Sappingfield, grdson, 14, Weiser, ID; Roy Sappingfield, grdson, 12, Weiser, ID. George Sappingfield, decd son & father of above named grandchildren died in Feb 1900. John W. Sappingfield, decd son, died May 1901 no issue. Rigdon Funeral bill. Extensive file.” [Marion County Oregon Probate Records Vol 3 by Wade]

"Harvest of Grim Reaper---Grandpa Sappingfield Called to His Final Rest Aged 93 Years---Was Pioneer of 1847 And One of Marion's Most Honored and Substantial Citizens--John Sappingfield, one of the oldest pioneers in Marion county died at his home on Howell Prairie, ten miles east of this city, Saturday night at 8 o'clock March 7, aged 93 years, 3 months, and 7 days.

Deceased came across the plains in 1847 and, with his wife, settled on a donation land claim on Howell Prairie, where he has resided ever since, and where he finally passed away last Saturday night.

Deceased leaves an aged widow, one daughter, Mrs. Amanda KING, of Macleay, and three sons, Henry and Chas. Sappingfield, of Pratum, and William Sappingfield, of Harrisburg.

He had led an active life, being hale and hearty, and his last sickness was very sudden, coming on very suddenly, after supper on the night of his death, and in another short hour he was no more.

The funeral service will be conducted at the family home today, Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock, in the charge of the Rev. C. Alderson. The remains will be interred in the McCorkle cemetery." Oregon Statesman, March 10, 1903, 3:1.

"Oregon Pioneer Dies---He Was Quite Well At Supper Time--J. W. Sappingfield, one of the oldest settlers in Marion county, died at his home east of Salem Sunday, about 7 o'clock in the evening. He ate a hearty breakfast and was quite well at supper time, but two hours later had passed to the other world. He was about 90 years of age and was hale and hearty all his life. He leaves two sons at Salem, Henry and John William at Eugene and a daughter Mrs. John King at Howell. His sons George and John are dead. The funeral will be held from the home, burial at the Murphy cemetery Tuesday afternoon. Rev. Alderson will officiate."Capital Journal, March 9, 1903.

“In the death of John Sappingfield, which occurred on his farm in Waldo Hills, on March
8, 1903, Silverton Country lost one of its oldest and most highly esteemed pioneer inhabitants. He died at the age of 93 years.

Mr. Sappingfield was born in Davis County, North Carolina, Nov. 25, 1809. When he was a year old his parents, George and Catherine Sappingfield, moved to southern Indiana, settling in Harrison County, where they lived on a farm. About 1833, they moved to Iowa. In 1847, they moved to Davis County, Iowa and took up a tract of land under the Homestead laws of the country.

John Sappingfield remained with his family until the move to Iowa when he started out on his own. On May 27, 1838, he married Mary Hagey, a native of his own county in N.C.

In 1847, they started across the plains with 2 wagons, 3 yoke of oxen for each wagon, accompanied by their family of 3 children. After a long and wearisome journey of six months they arrived in Marion County. Mr. Sappingfield rented some land on the old Edmundson claim. Later he purchased the right to a donation claim located about 8 miles east of Salem. In the spring of 1848, he erected a one room log cabin. Later he built improvements on the land and spent the rest of his life on that farm.

From time to time he accumulated more land, much of it in timber. He cleared the land making his farm one of the finest and most productive pieces of property in Marion County.

Their union was blessed with the following children: William, Louisa, George, Amanda, wife of J.T. King; John W., Henry A., and Charles Sappingfield.” [Silverton Appeal, Silverton, OR March 1903]
“JOHN SAPPINGFIELD. In the death of John Sappingfield, which occurred on his farm eight miles east of Salem, March 8, 1903, Marion county lost one of its oldest and most highly esteemed pioneer inhabitants. Mr. Sappingfield was born in Davis county, N. C., November 25, 1809, when even the eastern states were in their infancy, and at a period when the great "Oregon country" was a wilderness practically unknown to the civilized world. When he was a year old his parents, George and Catherine (Myers) Sappingfield, moved to southern Indiana, then regarded as far "out west," settling in Harrison county, where they lived upon a farm most of the time. In the course of time they removed to Parke county, that state, and about 1833 moved still further westward into Iowa. In the latter state they devoted, their energies to farming in Des Moines and Monroe counties until 1847, when they removed to Davis county and took up a tract of land under the homestead laws of the country.

John Sappingfield had remained with the family in their various locations until they decided to settle in Davis county, Iowa, when he determined to seek his own fortune independently. May 27, 1838, he married Mary Hagey, a native of the same county in North Carolina which witnessed his own birth, and who had been brought by her parents to Des Moines county, Iowa. The young people felt the spirit of their fathers strongly exercised within themselves, and when the parents of Mr.
Sappingfield finally decided to make Davis county their home, he and his bride concluded to seek an improvement in their fortunes in the great northwest, of whose wonderful resources they had heard so many tales from the lips of travelers who had visited Oregon Territory.

With their hearts fired by a most laudable ambition, they therefore set forth, in 1847, leaving the associations of their childhood and youth behind them, but with their minds fully made up to brave any and all dangers which might confront them, and to remain true to their purpose of assisting in laying the foundation of a great commonwealth in the land beyond the mountains. They started across the plains with two wagons, three yoke of oxen to each, accompanied by their family of three children, following the trail known in those days as the "middle route." After a long and wearisome journeys of six months they arrived in Oregon, coming at once to Marion county, the destination of many of the far-seeing farmers who had emigrated from the east. Here Mr. Sappingfield almost immediately rented some land on the old Edmundson claim. This was in the fall of 1847. Subsequently he purchased the right to a donation claim located about eight miles east of Salem, which he regarded as the most fertile of the available land in the county. In the spring of 1848, he erected on this property a log house of one room, its site being the same plot of ground where he afterward built one of the most commodious homes of the day. Without any unnecessary delay he began the improvement of the land, and in the fall of that year brought his family to their new home, where he spent the remainder of his life.

From time to time Mr. Sappingfield was able, with the accumulation of years, to increase his landed possessions. His first step in this direction consisted of taking up six hundred and forty acres, about eighty acres of which was in prairie and the remainder in timber and small brush. To clear this land and prepare it for the fruits of the harvest time presented a herculean task, but it was not gigantic enough to daunt the sturdy and determined owner, who at once applied himself to the work with energy. During the years he devoted himself to the undertaking, he succeeded in making it one of the finest and most productive pieces of property in Marion county, and, indeed, in the entire Willamette valley. At the time of his death Mr. Sappingfield was the possessor of three hundred and twenty acres of the original donation claim, upon which they settled in 1848, and on which lie erected three substantial houses. To his honor it is to be said that he assisted materially in the construction of nearly all the roads in the neighborhood of his home.

Side by side with this venerable man stood his equally faithful wife, now in her eighty-fourth year, the couple forming, during the latter years of their lives together, almost the last link with a historic and romantic past. Their long and useful life together was peculiarly blessed. They accumulated an abundance of worldly goods and innumerable friends, and their recollections of more than a half century of life in the northwest enriched every passing day. Their union has been blessed with the following children: William, a prominent resident of the state of Washington; Louisa, deceased; George, deceased; Amanda, wife of J. T. King, a resident of Marion county; John W., deceased; Henry A., a farmer of Marion county; and Charles. The last-named son married Mary E. Given, in September, 1892, and the young couple make their home on the farm occupied for so many years by their parents, the same having been given over to their management.

Thus is told, though necessarily in brief outline, the story of the career of one of the worthy founders of the empire of the northwest. His business sagacity, his integrity of character, and his splendid
personality, supplemented by his appreciation of the early possibilities of this region of the country, render his record one that will endure as a monument to the important part he bore in the development of one of the most favored agricultural localities in the whole world. [Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley p. 498-501]

A GOOD SAMARITAN OF ’49

A company of rough miners sat around their campfire at Shasta Soda Springs, one day in 1849, discussing what to do with a certain lad of 18 years, a member of their party, who had been ill of fever for several days and had given out at this place and was unable to proceed further. The boy’s illness had retarded their progress very much already and caused them much apprehension. The miners were greatly alarmed by various reports concerning the warlike attitude of the Indians throughout the Siskiyou and Callapooia mountains to remain longer at this place but were anxious to hurry on and join a larger party of miners camped on Shasta plains, bound for the Willamette Valley, in order to put up a better defense against the Indians.

In their discussion what to do with the patient, who had been such a handicap to their progress, they said the fever was sure to prove fatal, like most all of the other cases they had seen, and as they expressed it, “He was a goner sure,” many of them were in favor of leaving him to his fate, as they feared all might be massacred, if they waited for him to recover sufficiently to travel.

The poor chap could hear them discussing his case during intervals of consciousness, but was too weak and miserable to care. Finally one stalwart young miner rose to his feet and settled the question by refusing to leave the boy, saying, “No matter what the rest of you men do, I will stay by the boy, live or die.” Several others cast their lot with the invalid, while the others hurried on to join their party.

This brave, good man, with the assistance of one Owen Bush, who had waited with him, made a litter from two poles and a blanket and fastened this between two horses, tandem fashion and thus they carried the fever-stricken boy over the Siskiyou, Klamath and Callapooia mountains and delivered him, with the $4000 in gold dust the boy had mined, to his parents, who met him near the present city of Eugene, Oregon. This lad was George W. Hunt, the writer’s father.

The journey was slow and tedious, the danger from Indians was great and we wonder if the descendants of John Sappingfield, the pioneers of east Howell prairie, in Marion county, Oregon, know what a sacrifice this good man made for a mere boy who had no claim upon him other than that wayfarer on the Jericho road had upon the Man of Samaria we read of in sacred writ.
D/C : Mary Sappingfield, female, white, age 91y7m12d, widow, b. NC; d/o Andrew Hagey b. NC and Catherine Grimes b. Germany; housewife, d. 26 Aug 1911 at 758 N Commercial, Salem of exhaustion from old age; bur Murphy [Howell Prairie] Cemetery 28 Aug 1911; informant Charles Sappingfield, Salem

"Aged Woman Passes--Moved to Hall Plains (sic-Howell Prairie) in 1846. The Funeral Will Be Held Tomorrow. Husband Precedes Her---Report came to The Statesman office yesterday evening conveying the information that Mary Sappingfield, aged 92, who came to Hall Plains, north of this city in 1846, died at the home of her son Charles yesterday. Ever since she came to Hall Plains she has lived there. Her husband, aged 93, died eight years ago. She had eight great great grandchildren. Her oldest son, aged 72, died a short time ago.
The funeral will be held Monday morning, at 11 o'clock from the residence on North Commercial street." [Oregon Statesman, Aug. 29, 1911]

Children of John Sappingfield and Mary Hagey:
1. William Sappingfield
   b. 26 Apr 1839 IA
   d. 28 Jul 1911 WA

   m. 01 Jul 1866 Marion Co, OR
   Frances Looney
   b. 1849 Marion County, Oregon
   d.
   d/o William and Elmira (McClure) Looney


1883: Frances “Fannie” Sappingfield listed as heir in Marion Co Probate File #2030 on 06 May 1901 for Elmira (Looney) Doty who died 11 Jul 1883.
Children of William Sappingfield and Frances Looney:
i. James Albert Sappingfield (1867-23 Jul 1870 age 3yrs2mo24da)
   "Death by Accident—About the 14th of July a little son of William SAPPINGFIELD, fell from the family hack, which stood near the dwelling house, and by some means fell out of it and received a severe injury in his spine. Medical aid was had; but, after ten days of intense suffering, he expired. His age was three years and three months. His parents, residents of Howell Prairie, Marion county, Oregon, are thus stricken with deep sorrow at the sudden inroad by death into their family, and removing their darling Albert." PCA August 6, 1870.

ii. Charles Allen Sappingfield (30 Apr 1869-16 Mar 1894) Eugene Pioneer Cemetery, Eugene, Lane Co, OR

iii. Willard Baxter Sappingfield (27 Dec 1872-10 Aug 1952 Laurel Grove Cemetery, Springfield, Lane Co, OR) m. Lavina Bosserman (25 Sep 1880-10 Jan 1950 Laurel Grove Cemetery, Springfield, Lane Co, OR)

iv. Flora V. Sappingfield (19 Feb 1875-23 Jun 1945 Klickitat County, Washington)

2. Louisa Sappingfield
   b. 14 Nov 1841 IA
   d. 08 Mar 1857 Marion Co, OR
   buried Howell Prairie Cemetery, Howell Prairie, Marion Co, OR

3. George Sappingfield
   b. 08 Jul 1845 IA
d. 19 Feb 1900 Marion Co, OR
buried Stipp Cemetery, Macleay, Marion Co, OR

m. 26 Feb 1873 Marion Co, OR
Irene Giviesgold Lafollette
b. 31 Aug 1855 California
d. 24 Jul 1949 Multnomah County, Oregon


“At the Salem hospital, at 10:30 p.m. Monday, February 19 1900, George Sappingfield, of Weiser Idaho, aged about 55 years.

The deceased has been in ill health for a number of years and has been traveling from place to place for the benefit of his health.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed, but will probably be held tomorrow. Burial will be had in the Macleay cemetery” [Oregon Statesman, 20 Feb 1900, 8:2]

Children of George Sappingfield and Irene Lafollette:

i. Mary Hattie Sappingfield
(10 Feb 1874-06 Jan 1963) m. 24 Feb 1892 Thomas John Merrick (08 Aug 1873 Somerset, England-13 Dec 1935 Salem, Marion County, Oregon); parents of 5 children

ii. Nellie Jane Sappingfield
(27 Jan 1875-17 Aug 1953 Council, Adams County, Idaho) m. 05 Oct 1890 William Ebenezer Beardsley

iii. George Henry Sappingfield Jr.
(24 Jan 1877 Oregon – 05 Jan 1943 Mendocino, California) m. Elizabeth “Lizzie” McGinnis (06 Oct 1881 Hailey, Blaine County, Idaho); parents of 2 children

iv. Lillie Pearl Sappingfield
(19 Nov 1878 Oregon-19 Dec 1939 Monroe, Benton County, Oregon) m. 1896 Francis “Frank” M. Stow (04 May 1871 Oregon-15 Dec 1967 Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California); parents of 9 children

vi. Iva Mae Sappingfield

vii. Catherine “Cassie” Sappingfield (05 Aug 1886/7 Oregon-04 Feb 1896 Oakland, Alameda County, California) m. Frank George Bean

viii. Alexander Marion Sappingfield (12 Aug 1889 Sheridan, Yamhill County, Oregon-08 Dec 1969 Sonoma, California) m. Lucille Elizabeth OBarr 22 Jul 1913 Oregon (06 Mar 1894-Feb 1982 McCall, Valley County, Idaho); parents of 6 children

ix. Lee Roy Sappingfield (14 Oct 1892 Sheridan, Yamhill County, Oregon-25 Nov 1957 Shasta, California)

4. Amanda Sappingfield
b. 09 Sep 1853 Marion Co, OR
d. 07 Aug 1934 Salem, Marion Co, OR
buried Stipp Cemetery, Macleay, Marion Co, OR

m. 18 Mar 1868 Marion Co, OR
James Thomas King
b. 13 Sep 1836 Ark
d. 04 May 1912 Marion Co, OR
buried Stipp Cemetery, Macleay, Marion Co, OR

Marion Co Marriage Record @1056 p.395 and Book 1 p.73 “Amanda Sappingfield and J.T. King, m. 18 Mar 1868 Marion Co at the house of John Sappingfield. G.M. Whitney, M.G. Wit: Austin Boothe & John Sappingfield. Consent of John Sappingfield.” [Marion County Marriage Records Vol 1 1849-1871 by Wade and Custer]

Amanda King, at the residence, Salem, August 7. Survived by two daughters, Mrs. Minnie Humphreys and Miss Emma King of Salem; four sons, Charles W. and Albert King of Portland, Jay King of Butte, Mont., and Harleigh King of Salem. Funeral services Thursday, August 9, from chapel of W.T. Rigdon & Son. [Oregon Statesman 8 Aug 1934, 3:1]

“Respected Pioneer Buried Tomorrow—Burial of James T. King Takes Place at Macleay Wednesday—There occurred Sunday at his home near Macleay the death of James T. King, at the age of 75 years and eight months.

Mr. King was born September 13, 1825, and in 1859 went to California. In 1861 he came to Oregon, locating in the eastern part of the state, where he engaged in mining until 1868, when he came to the Willamette valley, locating on
a farm about seven miles east of Salem where he had lived from that time, much respected and well liked, making friends with all with whom he came in contact. Surviving him are a wife, six boys and three girls.

The funeral services will be held at the Macleay Grange hall Wednesday, May 8, 1912, at 1:30 p.m., Reverend P.S. Knight officiating. Interment will take place in the Macleay cemetery.” [Oregon Statesman, 7 May 1912, 3:4]

Children of James King and Amanda Sappingfield:

i. Minnie Louise King

ii. Emma King

iii. Charles W. King

iv. Albert King

v. Jay King

vi. Harleigh King

vii. Chester Allen King (1891-14 Jan 1899) buried Stipp Cemetery, Macleay, Marion Co, OR

6. John W. Sappingfield
b. 1858 Marion Co, OR
d. 22 May 1901 Eugene, Lane Co, Oregon

7. Henry A. Sappingfield
b. Apr 1860 Marion Co, OR
d. Mar 1954
buried Stipp Cemetery, Macleay, Marion Co, OR

m. 13 Oct 1880 Marion Co, OR
Olive LaFollette
b. 02 Nov 1860
d. 22 Jul 1945
d/o Charles Edward Lafollette and Mary Ann Snodgrass

Note: Olive M. Lafollette, d/o David and Sara (Railsback) LaFollette born 1862 and died 24 Nov 1945 sometimes confused with this Olive LaFollette

“Ex-Salem Man Dies in Portland; Services Today—Henry Sappingfield, lifetime resident of Oregon, died Tuesday afternoon at the home of a daughter in Portland at the age of 93 years.

Graveside services will be held today at 1:30 p.m. at Macleay Cemetery under the direction of the W.T. Rigdon Company.

Sappingfield, a retired farmer, was born April 21, 1860, in Salem and lived here most of his life. His wife, the former Ollie LaFollett, preceded him in death in 1945. Henry Sappingfield, like his father, farmed in Marion County.

Survivors include daughters Mrs. Edith Flood, Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Ethel Rice, Portland; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.” [Oregon Statesman, 25 Mar 1954, I:5:6]
“In this city, July 22, Ollie Sappingfield, late resident of Pratum, Ore., at the age of 84 years. Wife of Henry Sappingfield of Pratum and mother of Mrs. Ethel Rice of Portland and Mrs. Edith Flood of Los Angeles, Calif. Also survived by two grandchildren and one great grandchild. Graveside services will be held at the Macleay cemetery Tuesday, July 24, at 3:00 p.m., with Rev. J.R. Turnbull officiating. Direction of W.T. Rigdon company.” [Oregon Statesman, 24 Jul 1945, 5:1]

Children of Henry Sappingfield and Olive Lafollette:
i. Ethel Sappingfield (30 May 1882-1967) m. 01 Jan 1903 Charles Rice

ii. Edith H. Sappingfield (13 Jul 1883-09 Aug 1966 Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California) m. 19 May 1907 Michael A. Flood

iii. Albert Sappingfield (01 Mar 1898-01 Sep 1898)

“In this city, at 7:25 o'clock on the evening of Thursday, September 1, 1989, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sappingfield.

The babe was but six months old on the day of its death, and succumbed to an attack catarrhal feveer.

The funeral will take place tomorrow at the Macleay cemetery.” [Capitol Journal, 2 Sep 1898, 3:2]

8. Charles Sappingfield
b. Apr 1862
d. 15 May 1929 Marion Co, OR

m. 17 Sep 1893 Marion County, Oregon Cook Hotel by Ed N. Edes, Recorder City of Salem

Mary Ellen Given
b. 1864 Canada
d. 25 Mar 1944
do George and Isabella Given

1897: Mary Given listed as heir in Marion County Probate Record #1731 25 Aug 1897 for George Given who died 21 Aug 1897

Children of Charles Sappingfield and Mary Givens:
i. Gladys L. Sappingfield (19 Mar 1894-28 Dec 1964 Salem, Marion County, Oregon) m. Clare Adrien Vibbert; parents of 1 daughter

ii. Charles Albert Sappingfield (03 Feb 1901-May 1897 Salem, Marion County, Oregon) m. Cora Agnes Nist; parents of 3 children
January 24, 1898

Real Estate Transfers.
The following real estate transfers are recorded at the court house:

C. E. Brown to A. M. Davis, lot 8, block 3, Annex No. 1, George Hollister's addition to Stayton, $30.

T. Holman to School District No. 24, lot 7, block 3, Salem, except right of way, $1825.

A. Olsen to O. O. Molberget, land in Marion county, $1.

J. H. Campbell to Orville Ballou, land in block 25, Salem, $800.

T. N. Crane to C. W. Sweeney, 15 acres in tp. 5 s, r. 1 w., $550.

Mat Batsch to John Uhlenkott, 16 acres in tp. 6 s., r. 1 w., $900.

E. Sappingfield to O. Sappingfield, 106 acres in tp. 7 s., r. 2 w., $1000.
REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

From Jan. 1 to date......$1,243,688.00

AUGUST 30.

I. Durbin and wife to M. L. and E.H. Jones; 10 acres s 29, t 6 s, r 2 w $16,000.

Wm. Sappingfield and wife to I Durbin; 330 acres t 6 s, r 2 w $16,500.

R. H. Rutherford and wife to W.B. Peacock; tract in s 35 and 33, t 9 s, r 2 w $5,500.

Same to same; lts in blk 1 Marlon $2,700.

C. R. Schiller to Harvy Hage; 80 acres s 18, t 7 s, r 1 e $2,100.