

Peter Butler

Pioneer of 1853

compiled by Stephenie Flora  
oregonpioneers.com

Peter Butler [pioneer of 1853]

b. 02 Apr 1789 Pulaski County, Kentucky

d. 24 Jun 1856 Polk County, Oregon

buried in [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

m.

Rachel Cook Murphy [pioneer of 1853]

b. 12 Apr 1788

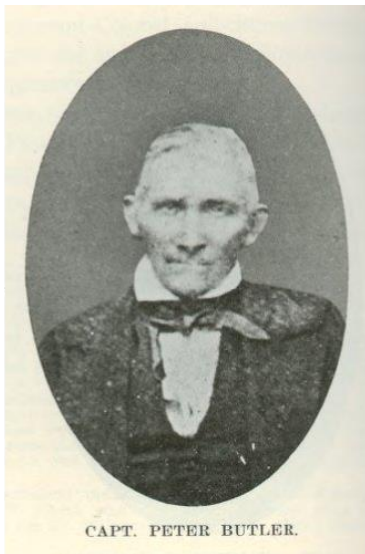
d. 10 Jan 1874 Polk County, Oregon

buried in [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

daughter of Rachel Cook(e) and John Murphy

1812: War of 1812

1832: Black Hawk War



Title Capt. Peter Butler

Date 1903

Publisher [Frank E. Stevens](#)

Genre photographs

Subject [Black Hawk War, 1832](#)

Permission Northern Illinois University.

1850: Warren County, Illinois, September 9, 1850; Peter Butler, 61, farmer, \$12,400, KY; Rachel, 62, KY; James W., 23, school leader, KY; Elizabeth, 21, KY; Isaac, 18, farmer, IL; Jacob Shawler, 20, farmer, KY; Franklin Napier, 30, farmer, OH

ODLC: #3906 Polk Co, Peter Butler, b. 1789 Mercer County, Kentucky, arrived Oregon 05 Aug 1853; settled claim 24 Jun 1855; m'd Rachel 25 Jul 1811 Barren County, Kentucky; 18 Jun 1857 John S. Kays gave aff. Peter Butler died abt 24 Jun 1856. Aug 2 (no year given) notation states N half to widow-land sold to Edward Ground. Aff: Harvey Steeprow, John S. Kays, Zedekiah Davis.

1854: Polk County, Oregon, Tax Roll, Peter Butler, Provisional and Territorial Record #14178

1856: Polk County, Oregon, Estate, Peter Butler, , Provisional and Territorial Record #0024

Children of Peter and Rachel (Murphy) Butler:

1. Ira Francis Marion Butler [pioneer of 1853]

b. 20 May 1812 Kentucky

d. 1909 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

m. 05 Nov 1835 Warren County, Illinois

Mary Ann Davidson [pioneer of 1853]

b. 22 Apr 1814 Barren County, Kentucky

d. 29 Jun 1888 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

1850: Warren County, Illinois, November 18, 1850: Ira F. M. Butler, 38, farmer, \$6600, KY; Mary Ann, 36, KY; Newton H., 13, IL; Paradine, 11, IL; Asa D., 8, IL; Augustus P., 4, IL; Mary E., 1, IL

ODLC: #496 Polk County, Ira F. M. Butler, b. 1812 Barren County, Kentucky, arrived Oregon 05 Aug 1853; settled claim 03 Oct 1853; m'd Mary Ann 05 Nov 1835 Warren County, Illinois. Aff: Edward Ground, Medder Vanderpool, Carter T. Davidson, Wm. Mason, Thomas H. Hutchinson

1860: Independence, Polk County, Oregon, August 27, 1860; Ira F.M. Butler, 48, farmer, \$8100 \$5424, KY; M.A., 46, KY; A.D., 17, m, IL; A.P., 13, m, IL; Margt, 8, IL; Alice, 1, OR

Children of Ira Butler and Mary Davidson:

i Newton H. Butler [pioneer of 1853]

b. 10 Jan 1837 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 07 Sep 1889 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

ii. Paradine Butler [pioneer of 1853]

b. 29 Mar 1839 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 06 Jun 1859

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

m.

William F. Reynolds [pioneer of 1853]

b.

d.

iii. Cyrus Butler

b. 1841 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 1842 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

probably buried in Butler Cemetery, Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

iv. Asa Douglas Butler [pioneer of 1853]  
b. 21 May 1843 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois  
d. 27 Oct 1923 Napa, Napa County, California  
buried [Tulocay Cemetery](#), Napa, Napa County, California

“A. D. Butler, pioneer resident of the Napa Valley, prominent as an educator, horticulturist and fruit packer over many years, died at his home on First street. He had been in failing health for several years. He was the father of Ralph Butler, city councilman, and W. D. Butler, horticultural commissioner. He was born in Monmouth, Illinois, on May 21, 1843. When a lad he crossed the plains with his parents and settled in the Willamette Valley, Ore., but later returned to Illinois, where he entered Abingdon College, graduating in 1869. He returned to Oregon and was president of the Christian College at Monmouth. In 1872 he came to Napa, settling in Browns Valley. He also taught school for 10 years. In 1892 he helped form the Napa Fruit Company, which organization he headed as president until his death. He was an active member of the Christian Church of this city. Two sisters and seven grandchildren survive, in addition to the two sons. The Napa Register October 28, 1923 [“News of 25 Years Ago”, Napa Register, Thursday, October 28, 1948, findagrave.com]

v. Augustus Peter Butler [pioneer of 1853]  
b. 17 Aug 1846 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois  
d. 26 Oct 1887 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon  
buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

vi. Mary Elizabeth  
b. 1849 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois  
d. 1851/2 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois  
probably buried in Butler Cemetery, Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

vii. Margaret Butler [pioneer of 1853]  
b. 10 Mar 1852 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois  
d. 06 Jun 1939 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon  
buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

viii. Alice Butler  
b. 06 Aug 1858  
d. 21 Jun 1940  
buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon



HON IRA. F. M. BUTLER.  
MONMOUTH OR

**IRA F. M. BUTLER.**— The honesty and wholeheartedness of a certain, and indeed, predominating, class of our early settlers is nowhere better exemplified than in Mr. Butler. Seventy-seven years of age, but still vigorous and kindly, adhering firmly to the temperance principles which have ever been his standby, and which have prevented the dissipation of his native course, and while well-to-do, indeed wealthy, spending much of his means in benevolent works, he is a striking example of the noble old gentleman.

He was born in Barren county, Kentucky, in 1812, and was the son of Major Peter Butler, distinguished in the war of 1812. In 1829 the family moved to Illinois. Young Butler grew up on a farm in the region since designated as Warren county, remaining with his father until the outbreak of the Black Hawk war. He heard the call raised at that time to save the early settlements, and enlisting served until the Indians were quieted. The experience thus obtained served to open for him the position of deputy sheriff. In 1835 he was married to Miss Mary A. Davidson, who for more than fifty years was his devoted wife, and bore him eight children. Soon afterwards he was elected sheriff, and four years later was appointed by Stephen A. Douglas as clerk of the circuit court, filling that office seven years.

In 1853 he sold his farm and closed out all his business, with the intention of crossing the plains, and became captain of a train bound for Oregon. By August 9th his company had passed all the mountains, and had gained the limits of Polk county. On the lovely plain about Monmouth, Mr. Butler chose his square mile, and has made this his home to the present day, owning also a few acres and a handsome residence in Monmouth,—one of those beautiful towns of the Willamette valley where nearly every house has its large lot and garden and orchard, where the streets are shady, and where there are church spires and school buildings.

Mr. Butler was early sought to occupy public offices, being elected in 1854 and again in 1858 to serve in the legislature. He acted as speaker of the latter session, and was returned again in 1860. In 1878 he was elected judge of Polk county, and in 1882 was honored with the position of recorder of the town of Monmouth, which office he holds to the present time. He has performed the duties of justice of the peace almost continuously, except as otherwise officially occupied. As a public officer, and particularly as legislator, he has been the friend of the people, and solicitous to expend their public moneys wisely. Lobbyists, ringsters and corruptionists have found him a hard man to manage.

His wife is now deceased; and, of his children, two died in infancy, a grown daughter passed away in Oregon, and a son in California. Of the four living, N. H. Butler is a druggist of Monmouth; Professor Asa Douglas Butler resides at Napa, California; and the two daughters, Maggie and Alice, live with their father, making his home happy, although it is not without its pathetic memories of times past.

It was but as a boy that Mr. Butler resolved, as he says, that “ardent spirits should never destroy what sense he had;” and bravely has he stuck to his principles. He has also been rigidly scrupulous to pay his just debts. As president of the board of trustees of Monmouth College, and in other ways, he has done much for education, and, besides his own children, has helped four other young people to an education,—seeing one young lady through the entire course.

[History of the Pacific Northwest Vol II p. 238]

*"BUTLER, IRA F. M.--Born in Kentucky in 1812, and at the age of seventeen went to Illinois and remained there twenty-three years. While in that State he held the office of sheriff of Warren County two years, and was clerk of the circuit court of the same county. Was engaged in the Black Hawk war, under General Whiteside. He came to Oregon in 1853, and has since lived in Polk County, where he owns a farm of six hundred and forty acres. Has served three terms in the Legislature; was speaker of the house in 1857-58, and was elected county judge in 1878, an office which he held four years. Is now notary public at Monmouth. Married Miss Mary A. Davidson in 1835. Eight children have been born to them, five of whom are now living. The*

*living are Newton H., Asa Douglas, Augustus P., Margaret, and Alice E. The deceased are Paradine, Cyrus, and Mary E."* [History of the Willamette Valley by Herbert Lang p. 798]

"IRA F. M. BUTLER. In comparative good health there is living in the town of Monmouth a venerable and honored citizen aged nearly ninety-three years, whose personal characteristics, accomplishments, and whole-souled public spiritedness may well serve as an inspiration to the youth of today who is handicapped at the outset of his life by the absence of influence or material resources. Ira F. M. Butler is a pioneer of pioneers, not only because he is an early settler, but because of the extent of his services in connection with the upbuilding of Polk county. Long before the Revolutionary war his emigrating ancestor came from England, settling among the colonies in the midst of which was fermented the compelling spirit of independence. The paternal great-grandfather, Peter, was born in England. Coming to America he located in Barren county, Ky., in 1710, and died there in 1816, at the age of one hundred and six years. The paternal grandfather, John, was born in Virginia, removed with his father to Barren county, Ky., and died near Fairfield, Wayne county, Ill., at the age of seventy-five.

Peter Butler, the father of Ira F. M., was born in Pulaski county, Ky., March 9, 1789, and in his native state married Rachel Murphy, a native of east Tennessee, and whose father, John Murphy, was born in the same state, and passed his last years in Warren county, Ky. Mr. Butler in time located in Barren county, where was born, May 20, 1812, his son, Ira F. M., the first of a family of ten children, among whom were seven sons and three daughters. Contemporary with his son's birth, Mr. Butler shouldered his musket and served in the war of 1812 as major in General Wayne's regiment, thereafter continuing to farm in his native state until his removal to Illinois in 1829. In Warren county, Ill., he bought a farm, the interests of which he gladly entrusted to the care of others while he served in the Black Hawk war, in which momentous struggle he won the rank of major. He became prominent in political and general affairs in Illinois, served in both the legislature and state senate, and was the first sheriff of Warren county. In the meantime he listened enthusiastically to the glowing reports of returned travelers from the west, and in 1853 out-fitted with mule teams and wagons, and brought his family to Oregon. He was four months on the way, and, contrary to the experience of most of the early emigrants, had a pleasant and safe journey. Arriving in Polk county, he bought a donation claim of three hundred and twenty acres of land near Monmouth, where his death occurred in 1856.

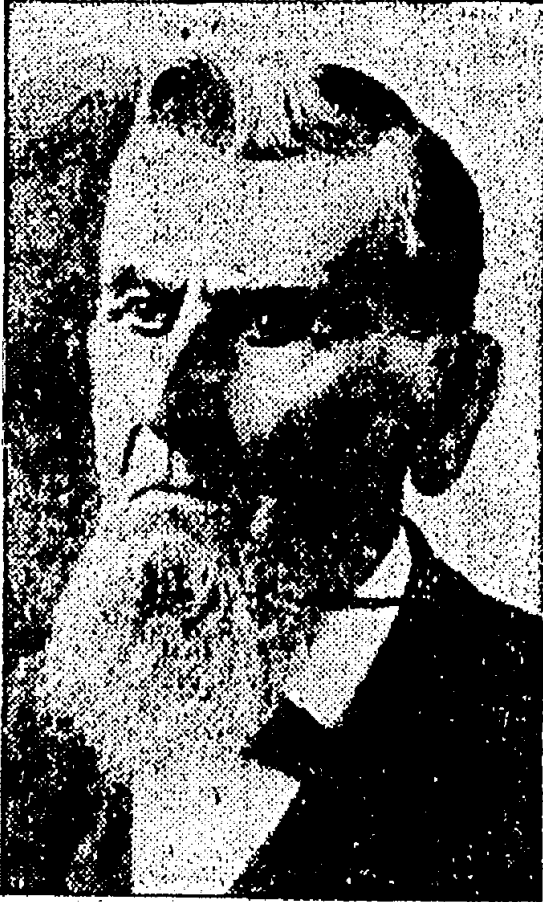
In his youth Ira F. M. Butler had meager educational chances, and he early appreciated what he was missing in that direction. Accordingly, he set about studying by himself during his leisure moments on the farm, and he was one of those who learn much from observation, and from contact with his fellow-men. He developed early aptitude for public service, for he was deputy sheriff under his father, and filled the position of sheriff of Warren county, Ill., in 1838. For seven years he was circuit clerk in Warren county under Stephen A. Douglas, in the meantime making his home in the town of Monmouth, Ill. With his father he planned the trip across the plains, and upon arriving at his destination in Oregon he settled on a claim of three hundred and twenty acres near his father on the Luckiamute. This property he sold in 1856, and bought land two miles southwest of Monmouth, consisting of six hundred and eighty acres. In 1856-7 he helped to lay out the town of Monmouth, and, upon being appointed one of a committee of five to give the infant project a name, called it after the thriving community in which he lived and labored in Illinois.

In his determination to be an upbuilding factor of Monmouth, Mr. Butler has traversed many avenues of activity, in all of which he has been successful. As a staunch Democrat, he has repeated his Illinois political services, creditably and ably representing his community in the legislature during the sessions of 1856, 1858, and 1862, in 1858 serving as speaker of the house. From 1878 to 1882 he was judge of Polk county, and until within a few years has been justice of the peace since his arrival in the west. From time to time he has been interested in surveying in

the county, and was county surveyor for one term. For eighteen years he lived on the large farm which he still owns, and during that time engaged in general farming and stock-raising, many improvements being added to his enterprise as his harvests increased in size, and large financial gains rewarded his arduous labors. From the primitive log house of the early settler he moved into more commodious quarters, and finally, in 1873, took up his permanent residence in a pleasantly located home in Monmouth. Since 1882 he has lived in comparative retirement, having won the esteem and appreciation of a large circle of friends and associates. A member of the Christian church, he was one of the founders of the Christian College at Monmouth, and for many years was president of its board of trustees, resigning only when the institution was merged into the State Normal School. His financial ability and integrity found vent as one of the organizers of the Polk county bank at Monmouth, of which he was for years one of the largest stockholders. He is a member of Grange No. 258.

For fifty-three years Mr. Butler enjoyed an ideal married life with the wife whom he married in Illinois. November 5. 1835, and who was formerly Mary Ann Davidson, a' native of Kentucky, and daughter of Elijah Davidson, born in North Carohna. November 5, 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Butler celebrated their golden wedding, and the love of friends and relatives found expression in numerous gifts, and in the showering of innumerable good wishes. Three years later, in June, 1888, the faithful wife and mother passed beyond the ken of those to whom she had been a comfort in life, and in the memory of all who knew her she is recalled as possessing many lovable and endearing traits of character. Her father removed from North Carolina to Illinois, and from there came to Oregon in 1850, locating on a donation claim of six hundred and forty acres near Monmouth, where he attained to the age of four score years. Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Butler, Newton H. is deceased; Paradine is deceased; Asa D. is a fruit grower in Napa, Cal; Cyrus is deceased; as are also Mary E. and A. P. Two daughters, Margaret and Alice, live with their father. Thus is told the life story of an industrious and capable pioneer of this great commonwealth, who is as great in the sterling qualities which bring success as is the state in opportunities of soil and climate." [Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley p.1181-3]

## A. PIONEER'S NINETIETH BIRTHDAY



**Ira F. M. Butler.**

mute, in this county, and has resided here continuously for 40 years. While living in Illinois he was appointed Clerk of the Circuit Court by Judge Stephen A. Douglas, which position he held for seven years. He was also Sheriff for one term, and Deputy Sheriff for one term. In Oregon he has served four years as County Judge, and has been a member of the Legislature three terms, and was Speaker of the House in 1858. A public reception, in which all the citizens joined, was held from 2 to 5 and from 7 to 9 o'clock yesterday in honor of the pioneer. Mr. Butler's faculties are remarkably clear, and he is to be seen each day walking some three-quarters of a mile for his mail. He was among the first to contribute funds and moral support to the founding of Christian College, and he has always been strictly devoted to the betterment of the conditions of the common people. He is in good health, and bids fair to live many years.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Thursday, May 22, 1902 p.4]

MONMOUTH, Or., May 21.—Ira F. M. Butler celebrated his 90th birthday Tuesday. He was born near Glasgow, Barren County, Ky., May 20, 1812. His boyhood was spent in his native state, and when 17 years old he went with his father to Illinois, where the family lived till they moved to Oregon. He was married November 5, 1835, to Miss Mary Ann Davidsoh, and they had six children. Professor A. D. Butler, of Napa, Cal., and the Misses Maggie and Alice Butler, of Monmouth, are the only ones now living. His wife died in 1888.

Mr. Butler saw active service in the Blackhawk war of 1832, with a company from Illinois, of which his father, Peter Butler, was Captain. The company served until the end of the war, and Uncle Ira has many vivid memories of the trials endured in those early days. In company with Edward Ground, Isaac Smith, Thomas Hutchinson, George Deweast and his father, he crossed the plains with an ox wagon in 1853, and took up a donation claim on the south side of the Luckla-



## SURVIVOR OF BLACK HAWK WAR CELEBRATES 96TH BIRTHDAY.



Ira F. M. Butler, of Monmouth.

MONMOUTH, Or., May 23.—(Special)—Ira F. M. Butler celebrated his 96th birthday Wednesday, May 20. A public reception was held in honor of this well-known pioneer, and a large circle of friends called and congratulated him during the afternoon and evening. His boyhood was spent in his native State of Kentucky, from where he moved with his father to the then new country of Illinois, where the active days of early manhood found him foremost in movements for the upbuilding of the country, and holding public positions of honor and trust.

He served in the Black Hawk War in 1832 in the company from Illinois of which his father, Peter Butler, was Captain, and is in all probability the only survivor of that war. His association in public offices brought him the acquaintance of such prominent men of the time as Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, and was appointed by the latter as clerk of the Circuit Court. He was married to Mary Ann Davidson in 1835, and crossed the plains in 1853, by the ox wagon route, settling in Polk County, where he has continuously lived. Six children were born to them,

three of whom are now living, A. D. Butler, of Napa, Cal., and Maggie and Allie, with whom he makes his home in Monmouth. His wife died in 1888.

Although grown somewhat feeble in the last few years, "Uncle Ira," as he is familiarly known, has retained remarkably clear mental faculties, and still enjoys good health.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Sunday, May 24, 1908 Section I p.6]

- 2. William Cooke Butler [emigrated to Washington c1880]
- b. 1815 Kentucky
- d. died after 1880 probably Washington

- m. Rebecca E. [ ]
- b. 1817 Kentucky
- d. died after 1880 probably Washington

1850: Warren County, Illinois, October 23, 1850; William C. Butler, 36, farmer, \$2500, KY; Rebecca E., 33, KY; Josephine C., 11, IL; Victoria L., 9, IL; John L., 7, IL; Sarah A., 5, IL; William H., 2, IL

1858: appears to still be living in Illinois per birth of youngest child

1860: Americus Twp, Breckenridge County, Kansas, July 4, 1860; William Butler, 45, farmer, \$1000, KY; Rebecca, 41, KY; Josephine C., 21, IL; Victoria L., 19, IL; John L., 17, farm laborer, IL; Sarah A., 14, IL; Wm H, 11, IL; Draper C., 8, IL; George E., 7, IL; Viola, 2, IL

1870: Mineral Twp, Carthage PO, Jasper County, Missouri, July 5, 1870; Wm C. Butler, 55, miller, KY; Rebecca E., 51, keeping house, \$3000 \$500, KY; Alice, 24, at home, IL; William H., 21, at home, IL; Draper, 19, at home, IL; George, 17, at home, IL; Viola, 13, at home, IL

1880: Dist 3, Columbia County, Washington, June 10, 1880; W.C. Butler, 65, farmer, KY VA VA; R.E., 61, wife, keeping house, KY KY KY; Viola, 23, dau, at home, IL KY KY

Children of William and Rebecca Butler:

i. Josephine C. Butler

b. 1839 Warren County, Illinois

d.

ii. Victoria L. Butler

b. 1841 Warren County, Illinois

d.

iii. John L. Butler

b. 12 Mar 1843 Warren County, Illinois

d. 08 Jun 1916 Americus, Lyon County, Kansas

1900: Americus, Lyon County, Kansas, John L. Butler, Mar 1843, 57, m-29yrs, IL KY KY, farmer; Mary E., wife, Jul 1859, 49, m-29yrs, 8-7 children, PA PA PA; John W., son, Jan 1880, 20, s, KS IL PA, farm laborer; Herbert L., son, May 1883, 17, s, KS IL PA, farm laborer; Hazel R., dau, Sep 1888, 11, KS IL PA; Dale E., son, Apr 1892, 8, KS IL PA

**The Butler Funeral Tomorrow.**

The funeral of John L. Butler, who died Friday afternoon at his home in Americus, will be held at the home tomorrow afternoon at 2:30.

John L. Butler was born in Warren County, Illinois, March 12, 1843. He received a common school education in Illinois where he lived, with the exception of three years spent in Bowling Green, Ky., until he came to Kansas in July 1859 with his parents, who located in Lyon County, and entered a claim of 160 acres on the Kaw reservation, on Allen Creek, three miles from Americus. He remained with his parents until September 1863, when he enlisted in Company E, Eleventh Regiment Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. He participated in all the engagements in which his company took part, from that time until he was mustered out in September 1865.

He returned to Americus and engaged in stock raising and dealing until 1871, when he purchased a farm of 160 acres on the Neosho River, six miles northwest of Americus. He then devoted his time to farming beside stock raising and dealing. In 1878 he sold his farm and purchased another of 120 acres on Cahola Creek, in Lyon County. In March 1879 he discontinued farming and stock operations and moved to Americus, where he engaged in general real estate, insurance and loan business for several years.

Mr. Butler was township trustee in 1878, '79 and '80, and justice of the peace in 1880, '81 and '82. He was elected to the office of county commissioner in 1882 for a term of three years. He was married to Mary E. Butler, November 1, 1870, and to them were born eight children, one of whom, Ralph, died when a baby. The other children are George S. Butler, John W. Butler, Herbert L. Butler, and Dale E. Butler, all of Idaho; Mrs. E. M. Bell, of Emporia; Mrs. C. B. Weaver, of Dunlap; Mrs. J. W. Woodmansee, of Dunlap. There are twelve grandchildren. Mr. Butler always was at his best when in the home with his wife, children and grandchildren.

He united with the Protestant Methodist Church about eighteen years ago, and united with the Americus Methodist Episcopal Church when he moved to that town. Beside his immediate family Mr. Butler leaves one sister and three brothers, all living in the West. They are unable to attend the funeral. The son, Dale Butler, will come from Idaho for the funeral.

[Emporia Gazette, Emporia, Kansas, Monday, June 12, 1916 p.4]

- iv. Sarah A. Butler
  - b. 1845 Warren County, Illinois
  - d.
  
- v. William H. Butler
  - b. Jul 1848 Warren County, Illinois
  - d.

1900: Fairfield, Spokane County, Washington, June 4, 1900; William H. Butler, Jul 1848, 51, m-21yrs, IL KY KY, P Maud Groceries; Elizabeth J., wife, May 1860, 40, m-21yrs, 6-4 children, IL KY KY; Chancy, son, Jun 1885, 14, s, WA IL IL; Virgil V., son, Mar 1892, 8, s, WA IL IL; Gladis, dau, Nov 1894, 5, s, WA IL IL

vi. Draper C. Butler

b. 1852 Warren County, Illinois

d. 03 Jun 1922

buried [Pomeroy Cemetery](#), Pomeroy, Garfield County, Washington

1900: Meadow, Garfield County, Washington, June 22, 1900; Draper Butler, Jul 1854, IL IL TN; Minnie, wife, Oct 1866, m-8yrs, 0-0, IL IL VA; Daisy, adopted dau, Apr 1893, 7, s, WA NY MA

vii. George E. Butler

b. Dec 1852 Warren County, Illinois

d. 1933 Elmore County, Idaho

1900: Atlanta Pct, Elmore County, Idaho, June 1-7, 1900; George E. Butler, Dec 1852, 47, m-9yrs, IL KY KY, farmer; Effie C., wife, Feb 1862, 38, m-9yrs, 3-3 children, NE NY IL; Herbert D., son, Sep 1887, 17, s, ID IL IL; Ida N., dau, Mar 1892, 8, s, ID IL NE; George N., son, Mar 1893, 7, s, ID IL NE; William C., son, Dec 1895, 4, ID IL NE; Frank W., father in law, Nov 1849, 50, m-27yrs, supt lead mines; Martha, mother in law, Jul 1839, 60, IL NY NY

viii. Viola Butler

b. 1858 Warren County, Illinois

d.

3. Eliza Ann Butler [pioneer of 1853]

b. 1816

d. 1864 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

m. 05 Feb 1868 Warren County, Illinois

Edward Ground [pioneer of 1853]

b. 09 Apr 1809 Mercer County, Kentucky

d. 25 Apr 1885 Scio, Linn County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

1850: Warren County, Illinois, October 15, 1850; Edward Grounds, 42, farmer, \$1600, KY; Eliza Ann, 34, KY; William B., 14, IL; Robert, 9, IL; Luther, 7, IL; Peter B., 2, IL; Joel Gorden, 23, farmer, KY  
1860: Lane Pct, Polk County, Oregon, Aug 4, 1860; Edmond (sic-Edward) Ground, 51, farmer, \$1600 \$1780, KY; W.B., 24, laborer, IL; Robt, 20, IL; Luther, 18, IL; P.B., 12, IL; F.P., 8, IL; J.H., 5, OR  
[note: Eliza not listed]

Children:

i. William B. Ground [pioneer of 1853?]

b. 1836 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d.

ii. Robert Ground [pioneer of 1853]

b. 24 Jan 1840 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 28 Dec 1917 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon  
buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

Jan. 6, 1918; Oregonian, p 7

"Oregon Pioneer Passes"

Monmouth, Or., Jan. 5

Robert Ground, an Oregon pioneer of 1853, died at The Dalles Hospital December 28, 1917. Mr. Ground was born in Monmouth, Ill., in 1840 and crossed the plains to Oregon with his parents in 1853. The family settled in Polk County near Monmouth, where Mr. Ground lived most of his life. The funeral services were held in the Christian Church here last Sunday, deceased being a life-long member of this church. Mr. Ground never married and is survived by two brothers, Luther Ground, of Monmouth, and Frank Ground, of Buena Vista.

iii. Luther Ground [pioneer of 1853]

b. 22 Mar 1842 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 20 Feb 1918 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Fircrest Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

Feb. 21, 1918; Oregonian, p 5 (photo)

"Polk County Pioneer Passes After Long Illness"

Monmouth, Or., Feb. 21

Luther Ground, a pioneer merchant and ex-County Surveyor of Polk County, died after a long illness yesterday. Mr. Ground came to Oregon with his parents from Monmouth, Ill., with the pioneer party which founded the town of Monmouth, Or., and resided at or near this place most of his life. Mr. Ground was 76 years of age and is survived by his widow and four daughters, Mrs. Dr. T. E. Zieber, Mrs. David Foulkes, Mrs. Mable Johnson and Mrs. M. A. Ford, all of Portland, and a brother, Frank Ground, of Buena Vista, Or., and two sisters, Mrs. Alice Shadomy, of Los Angeles, and Miss Evelyn Ground, of Portland. The funeral services will be held from the Christian Church at Monmouth this afternoon at 2 o'clock

GROUND, LUTHER--Born in Warren County, Illinois, March 22, 1842, and came with his parents to the State of Oregon. The family settled in Polk County, and from 1869 to 1873, Mr. Ground was engaged in merchandising. He then changed his occupation to that of a farmer, and is still in that business. Mr. Ground was married February 5, 1868, to Miss Sarah J. Butler, and the pair have had five children, namely Lottie, Nettie, Blanche, Mellie (deceased), and Mabel. Mr. Ground now owns a fine farm of two hundred acres in the vicinity of Monmouth, Polk County. [History of the Willamette Valley by Herbert Lang p. 804]

iv. Peter Butler Ground [pioneer of 1853]

b. 17 Apr 1848 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 07 Apr 1872 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Gingles Cemetery](#), Benton County, Oregon

v. Franklin Pierce Ground [pioneer of 1853]

b. 11 Jan 1853 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 03 Oct 1936 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

buried [Buena Vista Cemetery](#), Buena Vista, Polk County, Oregon

[History of the Willamette Valley by Robert Carlton Clark Vol 3 p.298-301 port]

vi. John H. Ground

b. 04 Jan 1855 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

d. 24 Sep 1914 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon  
buried [Fircrest Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

vii. Sylvester Ground

b. 28 Aug 1858 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

d. 1860 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

4. John Murphy Butler [did not emigrate]

b. 30 Oct 1818 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 04 Apr 1864 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

buried [Butler Family Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

m. c1840

Eliza Smith

b. 1818 Warren County, Illinois

d. 01 May 1858 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

buried [Butler Family Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

1850: Warren County, Illinois, October 19, 1850; John M. Butler, 32, farmer, \$2000, KY; Eliza, 32, KY; Lavinia M., 6, IL; Erastus E., 4, IL; Granville A., 2, IL

1860: Warren County, Illinois, August 7, 1860; John M. Butler, 41, \$7500 \$1870, KY, farmer; Levina M., 16, IL; Erastus E., 14, IL; Granville, 12, IL; Isaac S., 9, IL; Franklin P., 5, IL; Ralph O., 2, IL; Matilda Smith, 54, KY

Children:

i. McDowell Butler

b. 1842 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 27 Jul 1842 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

buried [Butler Family Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

ii. Lavinia M. Butler

b. 1844 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d.

iii. Erastus E. Butler

b. 1845 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d.

iv. Granville A. Butler

b. 1848 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d.

v. Isaac Smith Butler

b. 31 Aug 1851 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 30 Jul 1932 Napa, Napa County, California

buried [Tulocay Cemetery](#), Napa, Napa County, California

vi. Peter Franklin Butler

b. 13 Jul 1855 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 02 Jun 1928 Napa, Napa County, California  
buried [Tulocay Cemetery](#), Napa, Napa County, California

vii. Ralph Otis Butler

b. 1858 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d.

buried [Butler Family Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

“BUTLER, RALPH; farmer; Monmouth Township; is a grandson of Peter Butler, who came from Kentucky too Warren County with a team in 1829, and took up land in Cold Brook Township, where he lived from 1829 too (sic) 1853. He commanded a company in the Black Hawk War and attained prominence as a farmer and surveyor. Peter Butler, who married a member of the Kentucky family of Murphy, became a large land-owner in Warren County and gave 160 acres of land too each of his ten children. In 1853 he went overland too Oregon and founded the town of Monmouth, and he and his wife both died in Oregon. Their son Ira lives in Oregon, aged ninety-two years: William and Joseph are dead; James lives in Kansas; Isaac lives in Oregon; John, who was the father of the subject of this sketch. was born in Kentucky in 1818, and was eleven years old when his father came too Cold Brook Township. He married in Monmouth Township, about 1840. Eliza Smith, who was born in Kentucky, January. 1818, a daughter of Godfrey Smith, who was born and died in the Bluegrass State, and whose widow and family settled in Monmouth Township in 1833, where Mrs. Smith died. After his marriage. John Butler located on a farm of 160 acres in Monmouth Township, most of which is now the home of his son Ralph, where he died in 1864, his wife in 1858. He was a Democrat and he and his wife were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The following facts concerning their children will be of interest: Lavina married William Grounds, of Creston, Iowa; Kurastus, was a soldier in the Civil War and is now a farmer in Iowa; Granville died in November, 1902; Isaac is farming in Nebraska, and P. Frank, of Napa, Cal., is in the fruit business. Ralph Butler was reared on the family homestead in Monmouth Township and educated at a near-by public school. He inherited thirty-three acres of the old homestead and bought the remainder and is farming and feeding stock successfully on a well improved farm of 183 acres. Politically he is a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Monmouth. He married, in Monmouth Township, in 1882, Roy Tracy, who was born in Warren County, a daughter of Hanson and Harriet (Sherwin) Tracy, Pennsylvanians who settled early at Monmouth, where Mr. Tracy taught the first public school. Eventually Mr. and Mrs. Tracy became farmers in Roseville Township and they are now residents of Chicago. Besides Mrs. Butler, their children are Robert and Wm. E., of South Dakota, Platt Tracy, of Chicago, and George Tracy, a printer, now in the Philippine Islands. Mr. and Mrs. Butler have children named as follows: Grace, French, Ralph. Marion. Edith and Arthur.” [1903 Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Warren County, Monmouth Township [http://www.usgennet.org/usa/il/county/warren/1903\\_his\\_7\\_war.htm](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/il/county/warren/1903_his_7_war.htm)]

5. Joseph R. Butler [did not emigrate]

b. 26 Dec 1819

d. 05 Jan 1874

buried [Butler Family Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

m.

Jane

b.

d.

Children:

i. Mary Ann Butler

b. 1840 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 1851 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois  
buried [Butler Family Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

1860: Americus Twp, Breckenridge County, Kansas, August 3, 1860; Joseph Butler, 40, farmer, \$700 \$800, KY; Jane, 37, OH; Ira F.M., 13, IL; Emeline, 11, IA; Adeline, 4, IA; Lizzy, 1, KS

6. Margaret Butler [pioneer of 1853]

b. 02 Feb 1822

d. 08 Dec 1871

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

m.

Isaac Smith [pioneer of 1853]

b. 12 Feb 1816 Warren County, Kentucky

d. 29 Apr 1897 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

1850: Warren County, Illinois, October 18 1850; Isaac Smith, 33, farmer, \$3000, KY; Margaret C., 29, KY; Rufus M., 8, IL; Silas W., 6, IL; Berryman M., 4, IL; Flora Alice, 2, IL

1860: Bridgeport, Polk County, Oregon, July 31, 1860; Isaac Smith, 43, farmer, \$4000 \$4100, KY; Margt, 38, KY; R.M., 18, IL; S.W., 16, IL; Belle, 13, IL; F.A., 11, IL; R.M., 6, OR; J.B., 3, OR; J.M., 1, OR

Children:

i. Rufus Marion Smith [pioneer of 1853]

b. 1842 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 12 Nov 1920 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

ii. Silas W. Smith [pioneer of 1853]

b. 1850 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 1912 Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington

note: 1850 census says b. 1844

buried [IOOF Cemetery](#), Waitsburg, Walla Walla County, Washington

iii. Berryman Murphy Smith [pioneer of 1853]

b. 29 Aug 1846 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois

d. 03 Jan 1906 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried [Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery](#), Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

### **Death of B. M. Smith.**

**B. M. Smith, a well-known attorney, with offices in the Chamber of Commerce, who was Judge of the Municipal Court some years since, died at his home at 1171 Detroit avenue last night about 11 o'clock.**

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Saturday, January 6, 1906 p.9]



## Funeral of Former Judge.

The funeral of ex-Municipal Judge B. M. Smith will be held from the undertaking parlors of J. P. Finley & Son this afternoon at 2 o'clock. The pallbearers will be: George J. Cameron, V. K. Strode, J. H. Middleton, J. D. Lee, I. G. Davidson and R. F. Robinson. Rev. Dr. Morgan, of the Christian Church, will conduct the ceremonies. The interment will take place at Lone Fir Cemetery.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Wednesday, January 3, 1906 p.7]

- iv. Flora A. Smith Campbell [pioneer of 1853]
  - b. Aug 1848 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois
  - d. 1907 Latah, Spokane County, Washington
  - buried [Latah Cemetery](#), Latah, Spokane County, Washington
  
- v. Mary Eliza Smith [pioneer of 1853]
  - b. 1852 Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois
  - d. 10 Oct 1858 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon
  - buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon
  
- vi. Rachel M. Smith
  - b. 17 Sep 1853 Bridgeport, Polk County, Oregon
  - d. 18 Mar 1935 Vale, Malheur County, Oregon
  - buried [Valley View Cemetery](#), Vale, Malheur County, Oregon
  
- vii. John Butler Smith
  - b. 28 Nov 1856 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon
  - d. 16 Nov 1905 Dallas, Polk County, Oregon
  - buried [Dallas Cemetery](#), Dallas, Polk County, Oregon
  
- 7. Elijah Davidson Butler [pioneer of 1853]
  - b. 1824 Warren County, Kentucky
  - d. 1858 Oregon
  - buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon
  
- m. 24 Aug 1846
  - Sarah Elizabeth Lucas [pioneer of 1853]
  - b.
  - d.
  
- Children:
  - i. Charles Willett Butler
    - b. 19 Mar 1855
    - d. 21 Oct 1857
    - buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

8. James Whitman Butler

b. 1827 Kentucky

d.

m.

Mary Ground

b.

d.

1850: Warren County, Illinois, September 9, 1850; Peter Butler, 61, farmer, \$12,400, KY; Rachel, 62, KY; James W., 23, school leader, KY; Elizabeth, 21, KY; Isaac, 18, farmer, IL; Jacob Shawler, 20, farmer, KY; Franklin Napier , 30, farmer, OH

9. Elizabeth Hannah Butler [pioneer of 1853]

b. 1829 Kentucky

d. 1866 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

m1.

Thomas Hanna Hutchinson [pioneer of 1853]

b. 05 May 1824 Harrison County, Ohio

d. 10 Feb 1860 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Butler Davidson Cemetery](#), Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

1850: Warren County, Illinois, September 9, 1850; Peter Butler, 61, farmer, \$12,400, KY; Rachel, 62, KY; James W., 23, school leader, KY; Elizabeth, 21, KY; Isaac, 18, farmer, IL; Jacob Shawler, 20, farmer, KY; Franklin Napier , 30, farmer, OH

1860: Dallas, Polk County, Oregon, June 14, 1850, E. H. Hutchinson, 31, f, \$4000 \$650, KY; J.B., 8, IL; R.C., 6, OR; T.O., 4, OR; A.G. Willey, 24, wagon maker, \$0 \$125, OH

HUTCHINSON, THOMAS H.--Born in Illinois, and educated at Abingdon College. Coming to Oregon he settled on the Luckiamute, Polk County. Was captain in the early Indian wars, and subsequently held some civil offices; was county clerk at time of his death in 1862. Married Miss Elizabeth H. Butler, by whom he had three children James B. (deceased), Robert C., and Thomas O. Mrs. Hutchinson died in 1866." [History of the Willamette Valley by Herbert Lang p.807]

Children:

1. James Butler Hutchinson [pioneer of 1853]

b. 1852

d. 03 Jul 1873 Napa, Napa County, California

buried [Tulocay Cemetery](#), Napa, Napa County, California

ii. Robert Cascade Hutchinson [pioneer of 1853?]

b. 03 Aug 1853 Cascades few days before reaching Foster Farm

d. 23 Feb 1920 Oakland, Douglas County, Oregon

buried [Oakland Masonic Cemetery](#), Oakland, Douglas County, Oregon

iii. Thomas Otis Hutchinson  
b. 14 Nov 1855 Polk County, Oregon  
d. 10 Oct 1944 Salem, Marion County, Oregon  
buried [Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

“HUTCHINSON, THOMAS O.--Born in Polk County, the son of Thomas H. Hutchinson, an emigrant of 1853. His birth took place in 1855; was educated at the Christian College at Monmouth. Became a school teacher, and still occupies himself in that pursuit. Was married in 1877 to Miss Addie Rome, by whom he has had three children Lester C., Roy C., and Lizzie M. [History of the Willamette Valley by Herbert Lang p.834]

m2. c1863 Polk County, Oregon  
Spencer W. Miser  
b. 1825 Muskingum County, Ohio  
d. 08 Dec 1904 Douglas County, Oregon  
buried [Glendale Memorial Cemetery](#), Glendale, Douglas County, Oregon

Children of Spencer Miser and Elizabeth Butler:  
i. Haver Lacey Miser  
b. 28 Nov 1865 Douglas County, Oregon  
d. 01 Apr 1952 Stanislaus County, California  
buried [Turlock Memorial Park](#), Turlock, Stanislaus County, California

10. Isaac M. Butler [came to OR in 1852]  
b. 1831 Warren County, Illinois  
d. 06 May 1913 Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California  
buried IOOF Cemetery, Independence, Polk County, Oregon

m. 11 May 1856 Polk County, Oregon  
Sarah Webb  
b. 01 Aug 1840 Scott County, Illinois  
d. Jun 1906 Polk County, Oregon

1850: Warren County, Illinois, September 9, 1850; Peter Butler, 61, farmer, \$12,400, KY; Rachel, 62, KY; James W., 23, school leader, KY; Elizabeth, 21, KY; Isaac, 18, farmer, IL; Jacob Shawler, 20, farmer, KY; Franklin Napier, 30, farmer, OH

ODLC #1914 Polk County, Isaac M. Butler, b. 1831 Warren County, Illinois, arrived Oregon Sep 1850; settled claim 10 Sep 1853; m'd Sarah 11 May 1856 Polk County, Oregon. Aff: Elijah D. Butler, Peter Butler, Edward Ground, Thomas H. Hutchinson

Children of Isaac Butler and Sarah Webb:  
i. Ella Butler  
b.  
d. 1902  
  
ii. Bessie Butler  
b.  
d.

INDEPENDENCE, Or., May 11.—The golden wedding anniversary of Mr. Isaac M. Butler and Mrs. Sarah Butler was celebrated at their home in Independence today. Isaac M. Butler is 74 years old and Mrs. Butler is 65. Mr. Butler is a native of Illinois and came to the Coast in 1853 with the "Davidson train" of ox teams. In September, 1850, he landed with his train at Portland. In the same party were Squire Whitman, William Mason and Elijah Davidson, Sr. Mr. Butler has been a farmer, merchant and warehouse man, and served the county two terms as Sheriff. He enjoys good health and with Mrs. Butler took pleasure in the respect shown by the children and large number of friends who called at the home to pay their respects today. A brother, Ira F. M. Butler, of Monmouth, will celebrate his 95th birthday on the 20th of this month.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, May 13, 1906 p.27]

**DEATH CALLS MAN WHO CAME  
TO OREGON FROM ILLI-  
NOIS 60 YEARS AGO.**



INDEPENDENCE, Or., May 17.  
—(Special.)—Isaac M. Butler was born in Warren County, Illinois, December 2, 1831. He lived on the farm with his parents until he was 21, then came to Oregon with his father and settled on a donation land claim in Polk County. He was married to Miss Sarah A. Webb in 1856. She died in 1906, a month after they had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. He served as Sheriff of Polk County 1860-1864. In 1870 he opened a warehouse in partnership with I. Claggett, of this city. He served one term as Justice of the Peace. He went to California in October, 1910, and lived in Los Angeles until his death, on May 6, 1913. Death was the result of an accident. The body was brought to this city, arriving Tuesday, May 13, where funeral services were held in the Christian Church, with interment in the Oddfellows' Cemetery. He is survived by one daughter.

“Mrs. Sarah Butler, wife of I. M. died at her home here Wednesday morning. Mrs. Butler had been a sufferer from a paralytic stroke for a year and a half. Mrs. Butler's maiden name was Sarah Webb, Born in Scott County, Illinois August 1, 1840, she came with her mother, with the “Davidson Train” to Oregon in 1852 and located near Bueua Vista. She was married to Isaac M. Butler, May 11, 1856 after which they located on a farm on the Luckiamute. With the exception of a year spent in California, they have made their home in Polk county since 1852. Mrs. Butler was the mother of two children. Ella, then Mrs. E. W. Cooper, died four years ago, and Bessie with the aged husband, survive her. The funeral was held at the Christian church Thursday afternoon.” [Polk County Observer, Dallas, Polk County, Oregon, June 8, 1906 p.2]

**POLK PIONEER PASSES**  
**Isaac M. Butler, of Independence,**  
**Dies at Los Angeles.**

INDEPENDENCE, Or., May 10.—(Special.)—Word was received from Los Angeles this week of the death of Isaac M. Butler, a pioneer of Polk County and for many years a resident of this city.

Mr. Butler was born in Illinois in 1832. He came across the plains with an ox team in 1852 with his father and the family settled on an old donation land claim in the southern part of Polk County. He was the youngest of the children. His oldest brother was the late Judge S. F. M. Butler, of Monmouth. He served in the Indian wars in 1855-56. He was married in 1856 to Miss Sarah Webb. He was elected Sheriff of Polk County in 1860 and again in 1862 and while holding this office drilled a company of soldiers for the Civil War. He was Justice of the Peace and, while holding this office, had a record of never having a decision reversed by the Circuit Court.

Mr. Butler was a farmer before being elected Sheriff, but after retiring from office passed four years in California, then returned to Independence and conducted a warehouse, later retiring.

Two years ago he went to California with his daughter, Miss Bessie Butler.

[Sunday Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, May 11, 1913 Sec III p.7]