

# William Henry Gray

Pioneer of 1836

compiled by Stephenie Flora  
oregonpioneers.com



William Henry Gray

b. 08 Sep 1810 Fairfield, NY

d. 14 Nov 1889 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m. 25 Feb 1838 NY

Mary Augusta Dix

b. 02 Jan 1810 Ballston Spa, NY

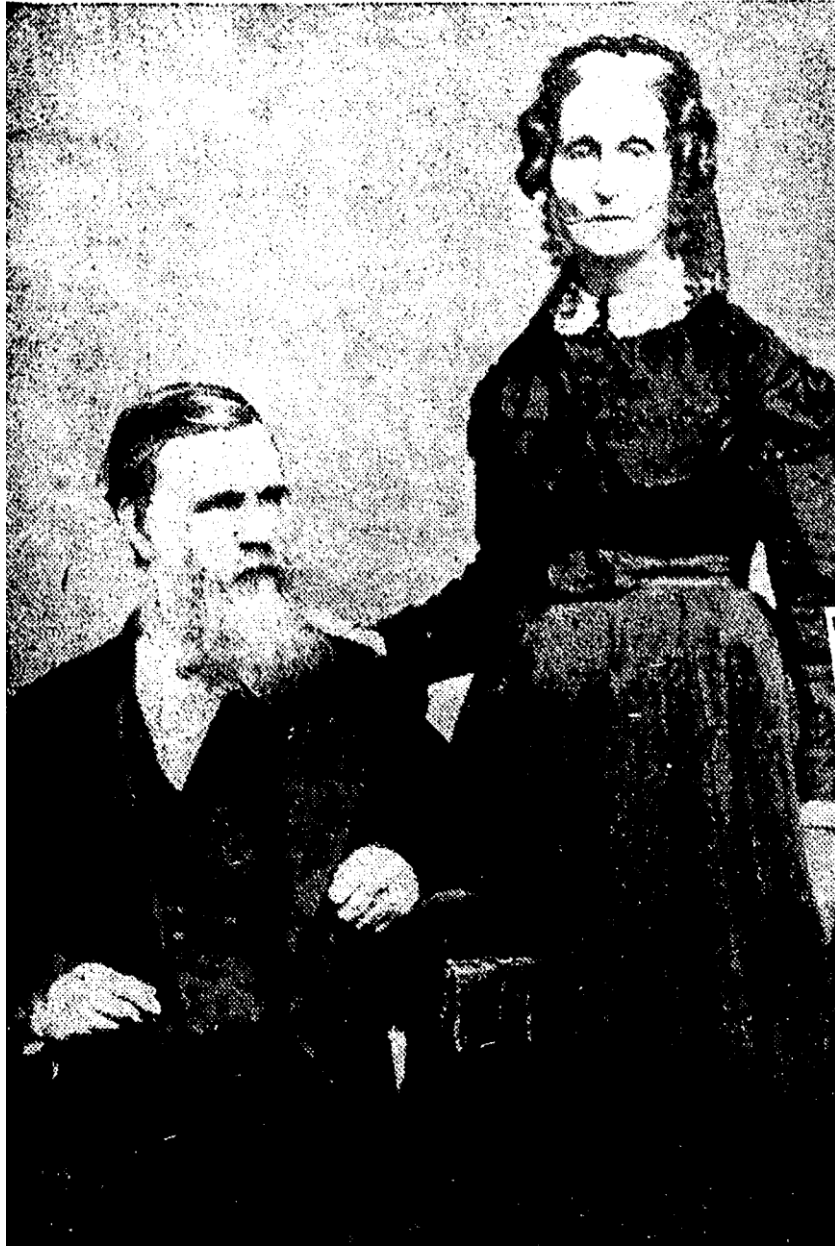
d. 08 Dec 1881 Clatskanie, OR

1850: Clatsop, Oregon Territory, H.W. Gray, 40, farmer, \$10,000, NY; Mrs., 41, NY; J.H., 11, m, OR; C.A., 10, f, OR; M.S., 8, f, OR; S., 7, f, OR; W.P., 6, m, OR; E.H., 4, m, OR; A.W., 7/12, OR

1860: British Columbia, Canada

1870: Astoria, Clatsop Co, OR, June 16, 1870; W.H. Gray, 59, inspector, \$3000 \$200, NY; Mary A., 60, keeping house, NY; William, 24, pilot, \$500 \$700, OR; Oceana, 22, on the ocean; Albert, 19, laborer, OR; James, 17, at school, OR; Maggie, 16, at school, OR

1880: Clifton, Clatsop Co, OR, June 22-27, 1880; W.H. Gray, husband, 70, farmer, NY Con Con; Mary A., 70, wife, keeping house, NY Con NY [also enumerated in the household are a number of Chinese listed as farmers as well as three others also listed as farmers]



[Oregonian, Portland, OR, December 4, 1950 p.25 Gray-Howard Families]

## THE LATE WILLIAM H. GRAY.

An Aged and Honored Pioneer Who  
Has Passed From Earth.

A Brief Sketch of the Long, Useful and Event-  
ful Life of Deceased—Incidents—Relatives  
—The Funeral.

Mr. William H. Gray, the pioneer, so well known to all old residents, who has been ill for some weeks at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Jacob Kamm, in this city, died at 2:20 o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. Gray was born in Fairfield, New York, September 8, 1809, being, therefore, in his 81st year. For the past two years Mr. Gray has made his home, more or less, with Mr. Kamm, his last coming hither having been seven weeks ago. His health has been weakened considerable by two severe falls he has experienced during the past two years, but his indomitable perseverance has kept him from yielding to inactivity, as many men of age would have done. It is only two months since he made a journey through the country alone.

William H. Gray first came to Oregon in 1836 in company with Dr. Marcus Whitman and wife, and Rev. H. H. Spalding and wife. Mentioning the circumstances under which he came to join the party of west bound missionaries, Mr. Gray in his history of Oregon, (page 112) says:

"Messrs. Whitman and Spalding, with their wives, and a re-enforcement for the Pawnee mission, made their way to Liberty Landing, on the Missouri river in 1836. At that place they were joined by a young man, named W. H. Gray, from Utica, New York, who was solicited by the agents of the American board to join this expedition, as its secular agent."

Speaking of the same circumstance, H. H. Bancroft in his history of Oregon (Vol. I, page 126) says:

"The company of four, with a re-enforcement for the Pawnee mission of Dunbar and Alligo, now proceeded to Liberty, Missouri, where they were joined by the fifth Oregon missionary, William H. Gray, of Utica, New York, who had been engaged as a mechanic and secular aid to the mission. He was a good-looking young fellow, tall of stature, with fine black eyes, without special education, but having pronounced natural abilities, of quick feelings, etc.

#### THE MISSION PARTY.

This mission party had brought with them a full supply of the supposed *et ceteras* for a life and residence 2000 miles from any possible chance to renew those supplies when exhausted, having the material for a blacksmith shop, a plow, and all sorts of seeds, clothing, etc., to last for two years. Mr. Gray found his hands full in making calculations for the transportation of this large amount of baggage, or goods, as the trader would say. In a few days wagons, teams, pack mules, horses and cows were all purchased in the county of Liberty, Missouri, the goods all overhauled, repacked, loaded into the two mission wagons, and an extra team hired to go as far as Fort Leavenworth. Spalding and Gray started with the train, three wagons, eight mules, twelve horses and sixteen cows, two men, two Indian boys and the man with the extra team. Dr. Whitman, having the ladies in charge, was to come up the Missouri river in the first boat and await the arrival of the train having the greater portion of the goods with it. Boats on the Missouri river not being so numerous as at the present time, the doctor and party did not reach Leavenworth till the train had arrived.

After encountering many hardships and being exposed to many dangers, the party reached Walla Walla September 1, 1836.

#### A PERILOUS JOURNEY.

It was from the Flathead tribe that the first Indian delegation was sent to ask for teachers. Three of their number volunteered to go with Gray to the States in 1837 to urge their claims for teachers to come among them. The party reached Ash hollow, where they were attacked by about 800 Sioux warriors and, after fighting three hours, killed some fifteen of them, when the Sioux, by means of a French trader then among them, obtained a parley with Gray and his traveling companions, two young men who had started to go to the States with him. While the Frenchman was in conversation with Gray, the treacherous Sioux made a rush upon the three Flatheads, one Snake and one Iroquois Indian belonging to the party, and killed them.

The Frenchman then turned to Gray and told him and his companions that they were prisoners, and must go to the Sioux camp, first attempting to get possession of their guns. Gray informed him at once: "You have killed our Indians in a cowardly manner and you shall not have our guns," at the same time telling the young men to watch the first motion of the Indians to take their lives, and if they must die to take as many Indians with them as they could. The Sioux had found in the contest thus far that, notwithstanding they had conquered and killed five, they had lost fifteen, among them one of their war chiefs, besides several severely wounded. The party were not further molested till they reached the camp, containing between one and two hundred lodges. A full explanation was had of the whole affair.

Gray had two horses killed under him, and two balls had passed through his hat, both inflicting slight wounds. The party were feasted and smoked the pipe of peace over the dead body of the chief's son; next day they were allowed to proceed with nine of their horses, the balance, with the property of the Indians, the Sioux claimed as part pay for their losses, doubtless calculating to waylay and take the balance of the horses. Be that as it may, Gray and his young men reached Council Bluffs in twenty-one days, travelling nights and during storms to avoid the Indians on the plains.

#### HIS SECOND JOURNEY WESTWARD.

Gray was successful in enlisting for the mission three clergymen with their newly married wives, a young unmarried man, and a young woman who became his own wife. In a private letter written after her death, in 1881, Mr. Gray states that it was an instance of love at first sight, which continued as long as her life. He met Miss Mary Augusta Dix, a handsome, stately brunette, on the evening of the 10th of February, 1838, and became engaged to her the same evening. Six days later they were married, and on the morning of the 26th started westward to join the caravan of the American Fur Company. Among those who came out with Gray in 1838 were Rev. Elkanah Walker and wife, and Rev. E. Eells and wife. Rev. Walker died in Washington county, Nov. 21, 1877. His wife still lives, and resides at Forest Grove, Or. She is the earliest pioneer white woman who rode across the plains on horseback. Rev. Mr. Eells lives in Whitman county, Washington. The party arrived in Walla Walla in September, 1838. Speaking of the return of this party, Baneroff (page 187) says:

"On account of the feeling among the Flatheads over the loss of five of their people, and the young chief, in Gray's company, his destination as missionary to them was changed, and he remained alternately at Lapwai and Wallatpu, visiting several tribes, both in Eastern and Western Oregon, and going back to secular pursuits after three or four years."

On the arrival of the missionary party headed by Gray at Walla Walla, in 1838, they were accorded a suitable reception, which, Gray adds, "must have been witnessed to be fully realized, every demonstration of joy and respect being manifested. The best apartments were placed at the service of the women, and the men were relieved of all care of their horses and cattle; the table was furnished in the way of potatoes, green corn and melons, and it was like a home-coming to all."

#### ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

It was in the fall of 1833 that Mr. and Mrs. Gray, their son, and two Nez Perce Indians, in a Chinook canoe, left for the Whitman station. Thence they left in November, 1842, for Celilo; thence in an Indian canoe by Vancouver and Oregon City to near Butteville; thence to the place selected to build the Oregon Institute at Salem.

In 1844 Mr. Gray moved to Oregon City; in 1846 to Clatsop plains; in 1855 to Astoria; in 1858 to Hope, B. C.

From 1858 to 1864 Mr. Gray was engaged in steamboating on the Fraser, upper Columbia and Snake rivers. He then returned to Astoria, and in 1872 his home was made on the Klaskanine farm. Between the farm and his Astoria residence the remainder of his life was spent, with the exception of two visits East, the latter of which was made in 1883, upon the occasion of the completion of the transcontinental railway, when an excursion was tendered to the Pioneers.

#### PUBLIC SERVICES.

Mr. Gray was actively associated with many institutions and associations, whose histories would be incomplete without reference to his name and work.

In July, 1848, he was one of the first legislative committee of nine which was organized to govern the territory. He was also a member of the first territorial legislature, in 1846, and took a very active part in the proceedings of that body. He was also a prominent member of the provisional legislature of '68-69.

In 1870 he published a history of Oregon, embracing the period from 1722 to 1849, "drawn from personal observation and authentic information." In this, with characteristic modesty, he alluded in the briefest possible manner to his own work, while dwelling in detail upon the career of his conferees.

#### MR. GRAY'S FAMILY.

In 1881 Mr. Gray buried the faithful companion of his labors, Mary Augusta Dix Gray, who died on the 8th of December of that year.

The children are as follows: Captain J. H. D. Gray, Astoria; Mrs. Caroline Kamm, Portland; Mrs. Mary B. Tarbell, Tacoma; Mrs. Sarah F. Abernethy, Palatine Hill; Captain William P. Gray, Pasco; Captain Albert W. Gray, Ellensburg; Captain James T. Gray, Vancouver. Added to these are thirty-two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. All the children will be present at the funeral excepting Captain A. W. Gray, who is on his steambont, City of Ellensburg, up in the Okanogan country. Mrs. Tarbell arrived on the Northern Pacific last night.

#### THE OBSEQUIES.

In the presence of a few intimate friends brief ceremonies were last evening had at Mr. Kamm's residence, conducted by Rev. Arthur J. Brown of the First Presbyterian church.

The remains will be taken to Astoria on the steamer Telephone this morning, accompanied by the family. The funeral services proper will be held at Astoria immediately upon the arrival of the boat.

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## PIONEERS TO BE HONORED

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**Bodies of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gray  
to Be Reinterred at Wailatpu.**

**WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, Wash., Oct. 26.—(Special.)—**When the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Gray, the famous missionaries of 1836, are brought from Astoria to Wailatpu, the Whitman Mission, November 1, a unique celebration will take place as the bodies are laid beside those of their fellow pioneers. The Walla Walla Commercial Club has joined with Whitman College to do them honor. Spe-

cial trains will be run to the Whitman Mission and the students will attend in a body. Rev. John H. Boyd, of Portland, will speak on the life of Mrs. Gray and Professor W. D. Lyman, of Whitman College, will eulogize Mr. Gray. Captain William P. Gray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gray, will read a poem.

William H. Gray was the father of Mrs. Jacob Kamm, a society woman of Portland.

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[Oregonian, Portland, OR, October 27, 1916 p.5]

Guide to the William H. Gray Collection, Whitman College  
<http://nwda.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv76963>

Oregon Historical Society Research Library  
<http://nwda.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv81403>



“WILLIAM H. GRAY. This pioneer of pioneers and historian of events in which he took so conspicuous a part was born in Fairfield, New York, on the 8th of September, 1810, and was a gentleman of Scotch descent. When but a lad of fourteen he lost his father and was apprenticed to the cabinet-maker's trade. At the age of seventeen, before the term of his apprenticeship was completed, he became foreman of the shop. After attaining his majority he studied medicine and, being a member of the Presbyterian church, he was solicited by the American board to accompany Dr. Whitman. He crossed the plains with Dr. Whitman and wife and Rev. Henry H. Spalding and wife, the party arriving at Fort Vancouver on the

12th of September, 1836. Having come with Whitman in 1836 across the plains in company with Sublette to the Greene river, having assisted the other missionaries in the journey to Vancouver and in establishing themselves at Waiilatpu, and having himself gone to Alpona among the Flatheads, he determined to return the next year for reinforcements. To defray the expenses of his journey he drove a band of twenty horses and also had as companions in his company three young Flathead Indians, one of whom was the son of a chief. All went well with the party until Ash Hollow on the Nebraska river was reached. There they were attacked by a war party of three hundred Sioux. The Flatheads, being desperate fighters, although vastly outnumbered, kept the enemy at bay for three hours, laying fifteen of them dead on the sand. Gray himself took a hand in the fight, having two horses shot under him and receiving two bullets through his hat. The Sioux, having lost a war chief among the slain and seeing no likelihood of overcoming the doughty little band, proposed a truce. But while the chiefs were parleying with Gray, others of the Sioux treacherously attacked his young men, shooting down one Iroquois, one Snake and three Flatheads, one of whom was the chief's son. The French interpreter then declared that the others were prisoners and must give up their guns. This Gray refused to do and told the rest of his squad to sell their lives as dearly as possible. At this show of determination the Sioux came back again and proposed a talk, and over the slain of both sides smoked the pipe of peace. It has been said variously that the death of this young chief alienated the Flatheads from Gray and that it was one of the causes of the Whitman massacre. Neither of these statements is correct or even reasonable. After his return to his mission, the Flatheads allowed Mr. Gray to live and teach among them until 1842; and his final withdrawal seems to have been due not to the disaffection of the Indians but to lack of agreement with his missionary companions. To suppose that the death of a Flathead in company with Gray in 1837 would cause another tribe, the Cayuses, two hundred miles off, to kill Whitman in 1847, is very peculiar.

Gray's services in establishing the provisional government were as that of originator of the scheme. His Americanism found no vent or scope in the Oregon of the old Hudson's Bay rule; and, shut off from



the national life which had been a part of his own and learning to hate the plans and expectations of the British, he was no sooner in the Willamette valley than he conceived the idea of the American settlers establishing a government of their own. He took the responsibility of agitating the matter, of interesting Le Breton and Matthieu and others, of getting up the Wolf meetings and of pushing the scheme which seemed constantly on so slender a basis as to be ready to fall to the ground either on this side or that. With admirable tact, shrewdness and force, Gray and Le Breton led the column and carried the matter through to a most pronounced victory. The following is an account of the "Wolf meeting." An avowed attempt to form a government would have arrayed the Canadian-French in opposition, would have confirmed the doubting or conservative Americans into opponents. Hence the expedient was resorted to of bringing together all classes and uniting them in a movement in which all felt a common interest. A notice was issued for a meeting on the 2d of February, 1843, at the Oregon Institute, to consider the propriety of adopting measures for the protection of herds and for the destruction of animals which preyed upon cattle, stock, etc. The ulterior purpose was a combination of settlers—a cooperative association to concert measures for the formation of some kind of civil government. At this meeting William H. Gray was chosen a member of a committee of six to make arrangements for a general meeting and to report business to such meeting. This done, the "Wolf meeting," as it is known in history, adjourned to meet at the house of Joseph Gervais on the first Monday in March. After adopting resolutions looking to the defense and welfare of their live stock against predatory animals and organizing the "Wolf Association," the meeting did not adjourn but appointed a committee of twelve, of which Mr. Gray was a member, to take into consideration the propriety of taking measures for the civil and military protection of this colony. That the outcome of that meeting to form a "Wolf Association" would prove to be either the submission of a plan of government, or a proposition to initiate the preliminary steps to organize, had been public expectation. There was an eventful meeting at Champoege. Mr. Gray was chosen a member of the that legislative committee. He was a member of the first territorial legislature and was one of a committee of five appointed to draft a memorial to the congress of the United States, setting forth the condition, situation, relation and wants of the country. In achieving the success of the "Wolf Association," the cunning of Le Breton would have had no effect without the moral earnestness and direct force of Gray, who did the talking, made the appeals, wrote the resolutions and closed the debates. This detracts nothing from the merits of Griffin, Meek, Smith and others, who were not simply followers but collaborators. It is to be regretted that no record remains of the secret sessions of these American agitators.

After the full establishment of the provisional government Gray went to Clatsop Plains and in 1852 went east once more for the purpose of getting sheep for the young settlement. The scheme had been original with him for some time; and it was a favorite theory with Whitman himself that sheep were of more value than soldiers to the early settlers and also to the Indians. Colonel James Taylor was interested in the same line and formed a partnership with Gray for the purpose. Gray made the arduous journey in safety, bringing his flock by boat down the Columbia, but at Tanzy Point a heavy south wind coming down Young's Bay prevented a landing. The scow was caught in a storm and blown out upon the sands and was wrecked on Chinook Spit, and the whole almost invaluable flock was drowned. He assumed the entire responsibility of the loss and gave up his farm and home to meet the obligation, yet was not disheartened by the reverse. He was engaged in many business operations, being in California in 1849 to dig gold. He went to the Fraser river mines at Fort Hope and Okanagan in 1858. In the winter of 1860-61 he built a boat at Assoya's lake on the British border. This was a craft with ninety-one foot keel and a twelve foot beam. It was constructed with no tools but a saw, hatchet and chisel and was caulked with wild flax mingled with pitch gathered from the pine trees. She was brought down the Okanagan and Columbia rivers to Celilo. Mr. Gray was also one of the earliest navigators of the violent Snake river.

For many years he lived at Astoria and during part of that time was a government inspector of the port. His later years were most enjoyably spent on the farm of his son-in-law, Jacob Kamm, on the Klaskanine. It is a matter of justice, which he was never forward to claim for himself, to say that his reason for not going to the Cayuse war was on account of the prevalence of a dangerous epidemic of measles on Clatsop Plains, to prevent the ravages of which he was particularly desired to remain by those who were going to the scenes of war and who wanted someone upon whom they could rely to care for their families in this

sickness. He was the only physician in that region. For a number of years he was thus practicing medicine on the plains and was ever successful. Dr. Gray performed the first operation of trephining of the skull on, the Pacific coast, and the Indian boy who was thus benefited by his skill spread his good fortune up and down through the forests. He was ever the friend of churches and schools, ever bore his hand in politics and public affairs, served as representative, county judge and justice and found his chief interest in public improvements. He was exceedingly active in the promotion of temperance, holding the most advanced views upon that subject.

Mr. Gray's history of Oregon, the first history written in the state, is so well known and so important in its sphere that it is fitting to devote some space here to its special consideration. The history was published in 1870. It exhibits flashes of dramatic power throughout. To those who have no interest in the contests of old times and to whom it is somewhat offensive to read of plots, charges and countercharges, the book ceases to please. But while these elements awaken the opposition of the reader. ... to the scientific or philosophical inquirer into the early conditions of our state, it is invaluable as presenting the feelings of all parties—not only of Gray himself, but of the Presbyterians, Methodists, the non-mission people and even of the English. This makes Gray's history a most useful work upon this subject. Gray discards nothing as unimportant and makes little use of the cloak of charity but tells everything with reckless truthfulness. He caters to no one, writes nothing for the sake of popularity and never changes a word for the sake of rhetoric.

In his political career, as well as in all his enterprises, Mr. Gray was ever inflexible, blunt and direct, hard to manage, a good hater, but keen and faithful to his cause. When he had some great object to accomplish, he showed address and appreciation of the circumstances, and in the early days was without doubt the Achilles of the American party. He was an honest friend, moreover, and his personal relations with Dr. McLoughlin were most kindly, although for many years they were firm political opponents. Mr. Gray' died on the 14th of November, 1889, and his remains were taken to Astoria to rest beside those of his loved wife. Taken all in all, William H. Gray is one of the most remarkable characters of North Pacific history.

One of Mr. Gray's objects on his first returning trip to the east, in 1837, was to claim his bride. The young lady to whom he was betrothed was appalled by the prospect of a life in the far western wilderness among savages and remote from civilization, so the match was broken off. After a brief but ardent and forceful wooing, he married Miss Mary A. Dix, who was born in Ballston Spa, New York on the 2d of January, 1810. The marriage ceremony took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 1838, Mrs. Gray being the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier who had decided to devote her life to missionary work. In 1838 this courageous couple set forth upon their life mission in the west, taking with them three other missionaries and their wives and locating at Fort Lapwai, Idaho. The zeal of the missionaries is understood when it is known that two weeks after their arrival Mrs. Gray had started a school for Indians under a pine tree in the wilderness and had a membership of from fifty to one hundred. Nor were her efforts confined to teaching the children, for during leisure hours she instructed the mothers in keeping their homes clean, in the art of making bread, and also taught them to cut and make clothes for their families. In 1838 both Dr. Gray and his wife received certificates from Rev. Dr. Greene of New York as missionaries of the American Board of Foreign Missions, both of which now hang in the historical rooms together with their passports. In July, 1842, Mr. Gray resigned from the Board of Foreign Missions and made a trip to the Willamette valley, where he became trustee and contractor and built the old Oregon Institute, since known as Willamette University. From 1843 until 1844 he lived with his family in Salem and then until 1846 in Oregon City. He next removed to Clatsop Plains, where, aided by his wife and three others, he organized the first Presbyterian church in Oregon. During the latter years of their lives, Mr. and Mrs. Gray lived principally at Astoria. Mrs. Gray died in 1881. They had the following children: Captain J. H. D. Gray, who died at Astoria on the 26th of October, 1902, and was ex-state senator and ex-county judge of Clatsop county; Mrs. Jacob Kamm; Mary S., deceased, who was the wife of Frank Tarbell of Tacoma, Washington; Sarah F., who became Mrs. Abernethy, of Oregon City and Portland; Captain William Polk(Gray); Captain Albert Williams (Gray); and Captain James T. (Gray). Mrs. Gray was a lady of education and refinement and of unusually lovely person, manners and character. She was a humble,

consecrated Christian. One especially interesting fact in connection with her labors at Lapwai has been handed down to us. .She had a remarkably sweet, finely trained voice, and when upon the morning after her arrival she joined in the singing at family worship. Mr. Spalding felt that it would be a power in their Sabbath services and requested her to conduct that part of the worship. When the Indians heard her sing they were visibly impressed and afterward spoke of her as "Christ's sister." While visiting at her mother's a few months before her death, Mrs. Kamm said to her one day, "Mother, I have often wondered how you, with your education and surroundings, the refinements of life that you were accustomed to, and your own personal habits, could possibly have made up your mind to marry a man to whom you were a total stranger so short a time from your first meeting with him, and go with him on such a terrible journey, thousands of miles from civilization, into an unknown wilderness, across two chains of mountains and exposed to countless dangers. Mother, how did you ever do it?" Her mother sat with her eyes intently fixed upon the carpet and then, after a few moments' pause, replied with great earnestness and solemnity: "Carrie, I dared not refuse! Ever since the day when I gave myself up to Jesus, it had been my daily prayer. 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do.'" And when the question, 'Will you go to Oregon as one of a little band of self-denying missionaries and teach these poor Indians of their Savior?' was suddenly proposed to me, I felt that it was the call of the Lord and I could not do otherwise." [The Centennial History of Oregon by Gaston Vol III p.577-579]

## WILLIAM H. GRAY.

This pioneer of pioneers and historian of events in which he took so conspicuous a part was born in Fairfield, N. Y., on September 10, 1810. At the age of 14 he lost his father, and was apprenticed to learn the cabinet-makers' trade, and before finishing his time became foreman of the shop. Upon attaining his majority he began the study of medicine, but through the intercession of Dr. Samuel Parker and the American Board of Missions he was induced to enlist in missionary work in Oregon before his graduation. In 1836 he left home to accompany Dr. Whitman and Rev. H. H. Spalding and their wives to the field of their new labors. The little party left New York in the early part of that year, and, after a long and tiresome trip, arrived at Vancouver on the 12th of September following. As they passed The Dalles, Mr. Gray was of the opinion that such place offered extra inducements for a site for a mission, but being in the minority was overruled in the matter of establishing one there. Subsequent events, however, proved his judgment far-reaching, as the Methodists afterward selected the location for such a purpose, and it was one of their most successful ones. From the time of arrival, he was associated with his colleagues in the establishment of missions until the spring of 1837, when it was arranged that he should return to the East for reinforcements. To defray the expenses of the trip he drove a band of twenty horses along, being assisted by a few young Flathead Indians. All went well until Ash hollow, on the Nebraska river, was reached.

when they were attacked by a war party of 300 Sioux. The small though intrepid souls defended themselves with such ardor that the Sioux signaled for a cessation of hostilities and a conference, which was accepted, but the terms proposed being such that Gray and his party would be left defenseless they were promptly rejected. Upon this show of determination the Sioux withdrew their demands, and allowed the party to proceed without renewal of hostilities. In the fracas, however, the Sioux lost quite largely, among those slain being a leading war chief. Of Mr. Gray's party five were killed, and he narrowly escaped such fate, having his hat pierced by a bullet and two horses shot under him. On the return trip he was accompanied by his newly made bride, formerly Miss Mary A. Dix, of Ithica, N. Y., and the Rev. Elkanah Walker, Cushing Eells and A. B. Smith, with their wives, and Cornelius Rogers. Mr. Gray was assigned to the Lapwai mission, and from thence until July, 1842, his labors were among the Flatheads. At this time he resigned and came to the Willamette valley, where he was engaged as general superintendent and secular agent of the Oregon Institute—now Willamette University—in which occupation he remained several years. The services of Mr. Gray in the establishment of the provisional government were as that of originator of the scheme, and he was no sooner located in the valley than he began to agitate such a course among the settlers. He gathered a few of like opinion together for consultation as to the best means of bringing about the desired end, and they devised a simple but most effective plan—one which worked to a charm. Many domestic animals had been destroyed by wild beasts, and a meeting was called on February 2, 1843, for the ostensible purpose of exterminating them, nothing being said about a more important object. The meeting was largely attended, and the fate of the animals was referred to a committee who was to report at a meeting set for the first Monday in March following. At this meeting the animals were lost sight of when Mr. Gray introduced the following:

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of taking measures for the civil and military protection of this colony.

"Resolved, That said committee consist of twelve persons."

The resolutions were unanimously adopted. Mr. Gray was one of the committee. The meeting adjourned to meet May 2, 1843, at which time a legislative committee of nine members was, by the report adopted, selected, he being one of the number. This was really the first legislature of Oregon. The session was held at Oregon City, July 5, 1843, and lasted three days.

In writing of these events, the words of Hon. J. Quinn Thornton, in an address delivered in 1874, are recalled. He said: "Historical justice requires the fact to be noted that William H. Gray, by his untiring labors, ceaseless vigilance and ready tact, which seemed to render him equal to any emergency, contributed more than any other man to the result of the measures which brought about the meeting of July 5, 1843."

After the free establishment of the provisional government on a firm foundation, he left the more active duties of its conduct to others, and turned his attention to business pursuits. In 1852 he made another trip East for a band of sheep, which he drove across the plains in safety, but when almost at home the scow upon which he had placed them for transport down the Columbia was wrecked on Chinook spit, near Astoria, and all of the flock were drowned. In 1849 he dug gold in California. In the '60s we find him in the Frazer river mines, and in 1864 writing his history of Oregon from 1792 to 1849, which he published in 1870. He was one of the promoters and indefatigable workers for the erection of the monument which marks the scene where Dr. Whitman and others met their death at the hands of the Indians, and are buried. An organization of the Oregon Pioneer and Historical Society in 1872 was brought about through his efforts.

The latter years of his life were passed at Astoria. He died in Portland November 14, 1889, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jacob Kamm, and his remains were taken to Astoria and rest beside those of his wife, who had preceded him to a better world.

It would be hard to find in the history of Oregon a man who was more thoroughly identified with its early upbuilding than William H. Gray. He was among the few first Americans to come here. He assisted in the building of the first homes, schoolhouses and churches; was foremost among those who launched the first government in our

midst, and the evidences of his life have left indelible impress for good upon our social and political structures.

He left four sons, J. H. D., William P., Albert W. and James T., all of whom have been identified with navigation, and are leading and honorable citizens. The daughters have long been known in the social circles of the state; they are Mrs. Jacob Kamm, Mrs. Sarah F. Abernethy and Mrs. Mary Tarbell, deceased.

[Oregon Native Son, Vol 1 p.46-48]

"MRS. W. H. GRAY. Side by side with the fathers, husbands and brothers who constituted the mighty army that conquered the west for civilization stood the women who in spirit were as heroic, whose endurance was as great and whose zeal as untiring as that displayed by the men of the pioneer households. Many of them were reared in eastern homes of culture and refinement, tenderly nurtured and carefully educated. It seems that it would have required sterner stuff to meet the conditions here to be found, but one of the elements in Oregon's splendid citizenship of today is found in the gentle influence and consecrated lives of those eastern bred women. History contains no more thrilling story than the records of the lives and military records present no account of greater fearlessness in the face of danger than is contained in the life story of Mrs. W. H. Gray, who in 1835 came as a missionary to the Oregon country. Her Christian work was among the Nez Perce Indians. "A labor loved and followed to the goal, A faith so sure of the divine intent It dignifies the deeds of daily life."

In her maidenhood Mrs. Gray bore the name of Mary Augusta Dix. She was of English lineage and came of the same ancestry as Dorothy A. Dix, the philanthropist. She was born at Ballston Spa, New York, January 2, 1810 and was one of a family of seven daughters who were reared in a Christian home amid refined associations. Her parents took an active interest in church work and it was no unusual thing to see them with their seven daughters seated in the church choir, the mother and daughters dressed in white. The first break in the happy home circle came in February 1838, when W. H. Gray of Utica, New York, sought the hand of Mary Dix in marriage. He had recently returned from the Oregon country, where he had gone in 1836 with Dr. Marcus Whitman and Rev. H. H. Spalding as secular agent of the missions they went to establish. She was to be not wife alone but colaborer in this mission field. Not long before the death of Mrs. Gray her daughter, Mrs. Kamm, said to her: "Mother. I have often wondered how, with your education and surroundings, the refinements of life you were accustomed to and your personal abits, you could possibly have made up your mind to marry a man to whom you were a total stranger so short a ttime before and go with him on such a terrible journey thousands of miles from civilization into an unknown wilderness, exposed to countless dangers. Mother, how did you do it?" After a few moments' pause the mother replied with earnestness and solemnity: "Carrie, I dared not refuse! Ever since the day when I gave myself up to Jesus, it had been my daily prayer. 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do.'" And when the question, 'Will you go to Oregon as one of a little band of self-denying missionaries and teach these poor Indians of their Savior?' was suddenly proposed to me, I felt that it was the call of the Lord and I could not do otherwise." This was the motive that led Mrs. Gray to sever home ties and go with her husband in the work of consecrated Christian service to the far west. by steamer and stage coach they traveled westward until they reached Independence, Missouri, where they were Joined by the Rev. Cushing Eells. and wife, Rev.Alkanah Walker, Mr. and Mrs. .A. B. Smith and Mr. Rogers, who were also to become workers in the missionary field. They planned to make the journey on horseback—a difficult undertaking as well as arduous one in that day when the streams and rivers in the west were unbridged and when little more than an obscure trail marked the way to the coast. The Indians were a constant

menace and often surrounded their camp, standing around like great dogs and sometimes even following the party all day. They carried with them tents which served as shelter at night while a buffalo robe and oil cloth blankets constituted their beds. At times their blankets would become heavy with rain and their clothing in the morning would be as damp as when they took it off the night before and when darkness came upon them they pitched their tents, spread the robes upon the ground within and thru the piece of oilcloth. The saddles and loose baggage were arranged neatly about on the walls inside and rolled up blankets served for seats. In the center of the tent a table was spread for the evening meal. At night the cries and howling of wild animals could be heard. When day broke, about 3:30 in the morning, all were astir; the animals were turned out to feed, breakfast prepared and eaten, the dishes washed, the repacking done, morning prayers were said the they were ready for the journey of another day. They had traveled for one hundred and twenty-nine days after leaving Independence, Missouri, when on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August, 1838, they reached Whitman mission, where they were joyously greeted by Dr. and Mrs. Whitman and Rev. and Mrs. Spalding, who had been anxiously awaiting them. Mr. and Mrs. Gray became the assistants of Rev. and Mrs. Spalding, who were in charge of the mission at Lapwai. Mrs. Gray earnestly undertook the task of teaching the Indian women and children and soon was instructing a band of fifty or more natives whom she taught under a pine tree until a log schoolhouse could be built. It was a primitive structure with puncheon seats and earth floor. There Mrs. Gray continued her labors until November, 1842. Her well trained voice proved a potent factor in her work. When she first joined in the singing at family prayers Rev. Spalding realized what a power her voice would be in his Sunday worship and requested her to take charge of that part of the service. The Indians, too, were visibly impressed by her singing and spoke of her as "Christ's sister," and told the tale of her music long afterward. No doubt the awakening powers of her voice, coupled with her rare sweetness of character, had much to do with bringing about the great revival among the Nez Perce Indians. Several hundred made confessions of religion and the influence was at least in a degree lasting, for years after Mr. Spalding left that field the Indians in many of the lodges continued to read the Bible, to sing hymns, to pray and return thanks at their meals.

In November, 1840, the Gray family came to the Willamette valley, Mr. Gray having severed his connection with the missions to accept the appointment of secular agent for the Oregon Institute. The journey to the coast was one of untold hardships, the parents, their son and two daughters floating down the Columbia to Celilo in a bateau belonging to the Hudson Bay Company. Believing that the trail would be safer than the turbulent waters of the Columbia near the cascades, Mr. Gray arranged that he and his family should proceed on the backs of Indian ponies, but when they were deep in the mountains they encountered a severe snow storm which not only imperiled their lives but rendered further travel impossible. Some of their Indian guides were then sent to Fort Vancouver for help. At the Columbia the red men found a canoe in which they proceeded down the river and when Dr. McLaughlin heard that a woman and little children were snowbound in the mountains he at once sent a boat manned by Hudson Bay Company men to their relief. Mrs. Gray's calm faith and belief that all would yet be well served to keep up the courage of the others and as the relief party were making their way up the Columbia, there came to them upon the wings of the wind the strains of a song that she was singing. Thus they directed their course to where the little party were imprisoned. They returned with the family to the river bank where embarkation was made for Fort Vancouver.

From that time forward the work of Mr. and Mrs. Gray proved a strong force in advancing the religious development of Oregon and also the temperance and educational work. Their home was the center from which radiated social and reform movements. In 1848 they assisted in forming on Clatsop plains the first Presbyterian church in the northwest. The strongest influences in life are often the most intangible and who can measure the work of this noble couple who were never contented with second best but chose those things which are highest and holiest. Every movement or measure for the promotion of truth, justice and righteousness received their support and many such found their impetus in their home. In 1870 they returned on a visit to their old home in New York, going from Portland to San Francisco and thence across the continent by rail, accomplishing in a few days a journey to which they had devoted months when they made their way on horseback to the Pacific coast thirty-two years before. It has been



said of Mrs. Gray that her presence was gentle and dignified. Many there are yet who bear testimony to the nobility of her character. She possessed a pure spirit and strong soul and was so pacific in her disposition that under the severest tests she remained calm and self-possessed. Her last words were a prayer that her husband, children and friends might join her in the Father's house not made with hands. She passed away at her country home, the Clatskanle farm, December 8, 1881, when nearly seventy two years of age, survived by her husband and seven of the nine children born unto her. The high sensitiveness of her nature was tempered by a serenity that had its root in an unwavering faith. She never faltered when she believed that the work before her was that which her maker intended that she should do. Of a most quiet, refined nature, her life was a restraining power to the spirit of lawlessness which is too often an element in a new community where an organization of society and of government has not been effected. While her words carried weight and influence, the beauty of her own Christian life and spirit constituted a still stronger power for good." [The Centennial History of Oregon by Gaston Vol iii p579-580]

#### **MRS. MARY AUGUSTA GRAY.**

This pioneer mother was born January 1, 1810, her maiden name being Mary Augusta Dix. During her early life she received an education which, together with her appearance and manners, fitted her for the most polite society. In addition to these accomplishments, she was a humble and consecrated Christian, at all times endeavoring to spread sunshine among those with whom she came in contact, and had a word of cheer and hope for those in trouble. In 1838 her hand was given in marriage to William H. Gray, who came across the plains in 1836 with Dr. Whit-

man, and who had returned to the East for reinforcements for the mission, which had been established in Oregon by the doctor and his associates. The marriage took place at Champlain, N.Y., on March 5, 1838, and almost immediately they set out for the scene of their labors, a labor for the Master among the Indians, a work which entailed a long and weary six months of travel across the plains, one of self-denial, banishment from home, its comforts, associations and benefits; an undertaking that required fortitude and bravery to accomplish. The party arrived at Waiilatpu September 1, 1838. After a short sojourn there she accompanied her husband to the Lapwai mission. Here Mrs. Gray entered heartily into the work of teaching the Indian women and children. Of the latter there was from 50 to 100, whom she taught under a pine tree during the fall, and until a log schoolhouse was built. This is described as "a puncheon-seated, earth-floored building," and here she taught her pupils until March, 1839.

In the fall of 1839 she left for the Whitman station with her husband and infant son in a Chinook canoe, paddled and steered by two Nez Percés Indians. They remained there, Mrs. Gray assisting Mrs. Whitman in teaching until 1842, when they came to the Willamette valley. Later they removed to Clatsop plains, where they resided for several years, and finally settled in Astoria. Wherever they went they strove to advance the kingdom of Christ, and exerted a decided influence in the cause of education, temperance and benevolence. In 1846 they assisted in forming the first Presbyterian church in Oregon, with Rev. Lewis Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Condit, at Clatsop Plains. (Clatsop church organized September 19, 1846.)

Judge J. H. D. Gray, of Astoria; Caroline A. (Mrs. Jacob Kamm), of Portland; Mary S. (Mrs. Frank Tarbell), of Tacoma; Sarah F. (Mrs. William Abernethy), of Dora, Coos county, Or.; Captain William P. Gray, Captain Albert W. Gray and Captain James T. Gray, of Portland, are children of Mr. and Mrs. Gray, a family which occupies leading and respectable positions wherever they are known.

In 1870, after an absence of 32 years, Mrs. Gray, accompanied by her husband, returned to New York for a visit, going by steamer to San Francisco, and thence by rail to New York. One can imagine their sensation as

they were rapidly whirled over the ground which they had crossed so many years before so slowly and laboriously.

On the 8th of December, 1881, Mrs. Gray died at her home on the Klaskanine farm, aged 71 years 11 months and 7 days.

Her husband survived her until November 14, 1889, when he closed his eyes in death, to reopen them and stand beside the faithful wife and mother who had gone before, and receive from the Master that crown of righteousness which is bestowed upon all true Christians.

[Oregon Native Son, Vol 1 p.110-11]

Children of William Gray and Mary Dix:

1. (Capt) John Henry Dix Gray
- b. 20 Mar 1839 Lapwai Mission, Oregon Territory
- d. 26 Oct 1902 Astoria, Clatsop Co, OR
- ex-state senator and ex-county judge of Clatsop county

m.

Laura Ward Bell (Pioneer of 1850)  
b. 25 Apr 1847

d. 06 Jun 1931

d/o John Colgate Bell and Sarah Elizabeth Ward

1850: Clatsop, Oregon Territory, H.W. Gray, 40, farmer, \$10,000, NY; Mrs., 41, NY; J.H., 11, m, OR; C.A., 10, f, OR; M.S., 8, f, OR; S., 7, f, OR; W.P., 6, m, OR; E.H., 4, m, OR; A.W., 7/12, OR

Children of John Gray and Laura Bell:

i. Belle Augusta Gray

b. 02 Oct 1870

d. 1930

m. 22 Jan 1900 John Fox

ii. Henry Dix "Harry" Gray

b. 11 Dec 1872

d. 04 May 1917

iii. Herbert Gray

b. 28 Oct 1874

d. 17 Oct 1878

iv. Laura Gray

b. 17 Dec 1876

d. 30 May 1903

m. 03 Sep 1901 Robert Wright

v. John William Gray

b. 04 Jan 1878

d.

vi. Charles Edward Gray

b. 18 Dec 1880

d. May 1945

m.

vii. Mary Alice Gray

b. 13 Apr 1882

d.

m. 06 Jul 1904 George Arthur Hartman

viii. Sarah Blanche Gray

b. 01 Nov 1883

d. 01 Jan 1923

m. 24 May 1915 Allen Reid Jobes

ix. Carolyn Louise Gray

b. 23 Nov 1885

d.

## JOHN H. D. GRAY

Was born at Lapwai, Oregon Territory, March 20, 1839. Four years thereafter his parents moved to Salem, Oregon, and three years thereafter to Clatsop county. Mr. Gray's early education was obtained in the public schools of Clatsop county, and completed at Pacific University, at Forest Grove, in 1856. When 20 years of age, he contracted the gold fever, and in company with his father went to the Frazer-river goldfields. It was on Frazer river that Mr. Gray entered the occupation of a navigator. In 1861 he was appointed pilot of the steamer Caribou, and on her second trip, when near Victoria harbor, B. C., the steamer was blown up and all her officers were killed except Pilot Gray and the steward. Mr. Gray was afterwards master of several steamers plying between Celilo and Lewiston, during the gold excitement at Orofino, and master of steamer Shoshone in 1865, on Snake river. He was known as a competent and skillful master, and experienced many thrilling adventures and dangerous trips. He has been active in public affairs. In 1886 he was a member of the Oregon state senate, representing Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties, and was an earnest, careful and painstaking legislator. He is now county judge of Clatsop county, and an indefatigable and energetic worker for the interests of Astoria and Clatsop county. In 1868 Captain Gray married Miss Laura W. Bell, of Salem, Oregon. Nine children have blessed the union, eight of whom are still living. He is a charter member of Cyrus Olney's Cabin, Native Sons of Oregon, at Astoria, and is an active and enthusiastic member. He also enjoys the distinction of being the second oldest Native Son of Oregon now living.

[Oregon Native Son, Vol 1 p.172]

2. Caroline Augusta Gray

b. 16 Oct 1840 Whitman Mission, Waiilatpu, Walla Walla Co, WA

d. 06 Aug 1932 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m.

Jacob Kamm

b. 12 Dec 1824

d. 14 Dec 1912 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

1850: Clatsop, Oregon Territory, H.W. Gray, 40, farmer, \$10,000, NY; Mrs., 41, NY; J.H., 11, m, OR; C.A., 10, f, OR; M.S., 8, f, OR; S., 7, f, OR; W.P., 6, m, OR; E.H., 4, m, OR; A.W., 7/12, OR

## PIONEER STEAMER MAN WILL BE 87 TOMORROW

Jacob Kamm, Alert at Advanced Age, Recounts Early History of Willamette Shipping—Craft, Carrie Ladd, Leads to Giant Merger.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, Dec 11, 1910 Sec II p.5]

## JACOB KAMM, 88 YEARS OLD, RECALLS STEAMBOAT DAYS ON THE COLUMBIA

After Landing in St. Louis With but Ten Cents in Pocket, Engineering Is Learned by Struggle on River Boats.  
Journey Across Continent Made in 1849.

Oregonian, December 10, 1911 p.16

## JACOB KAMM DIES; BURIAL TOMORROW

Body of Late Veteran Steamship Man Will Lie in State  
at Church.

## PALLBEARERS ARE NAMED

Representatives of the Industries and  
Organizations in Which Pioneer  
Was Interested Will Act—Masonic Service at Grave.

Representatives of the various industries and organizations in which the late Jacob Kamm, the veteran steamship and railroad man who died at 7 o'clock yesterday morning at the age of 89 years, was interested, will officiate as active and honorary pallbearers at his funeral, which will be held from the late residence, Fourteenth and Main streets, Monday morning.

The morning services will be held at the home at 10:30 and will be attended only by members of his family and immediate friends. Rev. John H. Boyd, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Kamm was a devoted member and a trustee, will officiate.

Then the body will be taken to the First Presbyterian Church, Twelfth and Alder streets, where it will lie in state until 1:30 P.M. Public services at the church will begin at 1:30, Rev. Mr. Boyd officiating.

#### **Masonic Service at Grave.**

Members of the Masonic fraternities with which Mr. Kamm was affiliated will accompany the body to Riverview Cemetery and conduct the services at the grave. E. J. Falling, master of the Willamette lodge, will have charge of the arrangements.

The following employes of the Vancouver Transportation Company, of which Mr. Kamm was president, will serve as active pallbearers: Charles Gregory, J. Hayes, J. Allen Harrison, F. Malmquist, Oscar Johnson, Captain McCully, M. C. Strawn and A. Vaughn.

The honorary pallbearers will be A. S. Pattullo, W. M. Ladd and W. A. MacRae, fellow trustees with Mr. Kamm, of the First Presbyterian Church; J. P. O'Brien, D. W. Campbell and J. H. Young, representing the railroad companies; C. A. Dolph, W. C. Alvord and J. W. Newkirk, representing the Masons; W. R. Mackenzie, Mr. Kamm's financial secretary and treasurer of the Vancouver Transportation Company; M. Talbot, of the Port of Portland, and G. F. Fuller, of the United States Steamboat Inspectors.

#### Burial Is at Riverview.

Interment will be made in the family plot at Riverview, where his son, the late Charles Tilton Kamm, who died six years ago, lies buried.

As Mr. Kamm lived, so he died, quietly, peacefully, happily. Although he had been an invalid for five years the evening of his life was made comforting and cheerful by the faithful ministrations of his devoted wife. When he was stricken with his final illness, two weeks ago today, his family and friends soon realized that the end was near. He sank gradually from the beginning. Only his wonderful vitality, due to his temperate habits and quiet manner of living, prolonged the end beyond what in other men might have been the natural period.

To most of the outside world Mr. Kamm probably was much misunderstood, but to those who knew him best his personality was one of love, friendship and kindness, as is evidenced by the following testimonial of esteem delivered yesterday by J. Allen Harrison, superintendent of the Vancouver Transportation Company.

#### Tribute Paid to Dead.

"As an employé of the Vancouver Transportation Company, of which Mr. Kamm was president, I want to say in his honor a few things of his life as I have known him. I entered his service in 1894 and have not only found him a kind and just employer, but a warm personal friend. All these years I have found him the same quiet, unassuming gentleman, always ready to hear and give a decision on matters either of a personal or of a business nature.

"For five years he has been confined to his home. I have seen him nearly every day and talked over matters of business and thus have seen much of the soft side of his nature that his modesty kept from the outside world. He always wished to avoid notoriety and the many little deeds of charity and kindness he did have been kept from the outside. Since confined to his room he has not only taken a keen interest in business, but also in political and social affairs. He never missed a chance to cast his vote for what he considered the right, having voted in the recent election, November 5.

"I have never heard a man say that Mr. Kamm had wronged him. On the other hand, I have heard many kind and commendable words. His tenants always have had a good word to say for him. They have not known that often scheming competitors have offered larger rentals for buildings they occupied. Often when a tenant had met reverses he 'knockd off' part of the rent due or lowered the rate. He always was solicitous about his employes and their families, especially when they were sick. As long as an employe did half right he was sure of his job. Only yesterday an employe of 12 years said with tears in his eyes:

**"Mr. Kamm Too Good," Employe Says.**

"Mr. Kamm was too good to me. I did not always do the right thing, but he never reprimanded me."

"Mr. Kamm was schooled in economy, having made his own way in the world from the time he was 12 years of age. His advice to his employes was to live simply and save their earnings.

"In his home life he was a devoted husband and a good provider, not only looking after the interests of his own house but for that of his daughter-in-law and his grandchildren. His good wife always has been a devoted help-mate and since he has been confined to his room she has given up all outside pleasure, being constantly at his side, ready to minister to his every want. They always have shown that spirit that should exist between every true man and wife. I feel loath to say farewell to one I esteemed so highly."



# MRS. JACOB KAMM OBSERVES 90TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Portland Woman, Spry and Alert Despite Years, Receives Many  
Guests Who Call to Pay Respects at Her Home.

BY DAVID W. HAZEN.

THE guns of the British fleet thundered a salute. The soldiers in the little fort and the people at the settlement wondered what it was all about. It wasn't the queen's birthday. It wasn't the anniversary of any great victory. Maybe the admiral was celebrating an anniversary all his own.

But the mighty sailor set all at rest when he went ashore that night. It was in honor of the bride, a charming, pretty lass of 19 who married that day on the ship Eliza Anderson, Captain Wells commanding. What matter if she belonged to the "enemy," brides are pretty and sweet and blushing the world over, and the British navy saluted in honor of gentle womanhood.

This happy day was long, long ago. The place was on the waters off Fort Hope, B. C., during the troubles that were worrying the statesmen of Downing street and on Pennsylvania avenue. It was the bloomin' San Juan island boundary. The navy of St. George was on hand to see that the Yankees didn't dig up the island and run away with it.

Well, the pretty bride of that happy wedding celebrated her 90th birthday here Thursday. She is Mrs. Jacob Kamm, who is as spry and alert in mind and body as many folk a score and a half years her junior. Mrs. Kamm received between 40 and 50 of her friends at her home, 488 Main street, during the day and at night presided at a dinner given in honor of her great-grandchildren.

Caroline Augustus Gray was born at Lapwai mission October 16, 1840. This was 14 years before the republican party was founded, 19 years before John Brown was hanged at Harper's Ferry, Va., and nearly 21 years before the outbreak of the civil war. Lapwai was the mission presided over by Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Spalding. It was 90 miles east of



Mrs. Caroline A. Kamm.

sweetheart went north and the wed-

the Whitman mission and on a site about 10 miles from where the city of Lewiston, Idaho, now stands.

The father of the baby girl, the second child and the first daughter in the family, was William H. Gray, who arrived in the wild Oregon country with Dr. Whitman and Dr. Spalding in 1836. Mr. Gray's title was secular agent at the mission where the Nez Perces were taught. After he had been in the wilderness a while, Gray returned to New York state and wed the sweet girl of his dreams, Mary Augusta Dix. Few brides have had as weird and adventurous honeymoon trips as this New York girl who accompanied her husband to the quaint little mission amid the Nez Perces.

Their daughter Caroline Augusta was educated at the seminary at Forest Grove, Or., although she was greatly aided at home by her parents. She was still in her 'teens when she met Jacob Kamm, a young pioneer who was just forging to the front in the rather new town of Portland. They were engaged when Mr. Kamm went north on business connected with the boundary matter.

The day for the wedding neared. Jacob could not come home, so his

sweetheart went north and the wedding was performed by the Rev. Ebenezer Robson. The story of the happy compliment paid by the British admiral Mrs. Kamm told to her granddaughter, Mrs. Walker W. Kamm.

Portland has been the home of Mrs. Kamm ever since her marriage. Captain Kamm was an early day steamboat owner and builder. He was a heavy buyer of local real estate, erected numerous buildings in the city, and became one of Oregon's best-known capitalists. He passed away at his home December 14, 1912.

One son was born to the couple who were married at Fort Hope, Charles Tilton Kamm. He was born December 30, 1860, in Portland, and died September 11, 1906.

At her birthday party were three grandchildren, Mrs. Caroline A. McKinnon and Jacob Gray Kamm of Portland and Walker W. Kamm of Burlingame, Cal. Another grandson, Philip S. Kamm, lives at Hollywood, Cal. Mrs. Walker Kamm and daughter Kathleen were also present at the celebration.

Walker said that his grandmother is the oldest active member of the First Presbyterian church of this city.

# MRS. C. A. KAMM, 91, DIES AT HOME HERE

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Illness Following Fall Re-  
sults Fatally.

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## CITY'S GROWTH WATCHED

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Woman Born 21 Years Before Out-  
break of Civil War Spent  
Most of Life in West.

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Mrs. Caroline Augusta Kamm, 91, one of Portland's first pioneer group, died at her home, 488 Main street, last night after a brief illness which followed a fall. Funeral services are to be held at 2 P. M. Monday at the First Presbyterian church. Dr. Harold

Leonard Bowman will officiate.

Mrs. Kamm's life spanned the era which marked the transformation of the west from wilderness to its modern state. She witnessed the growth of Portland from a tiny village to a large metropolitan center and Pacific port. Together with members of her family she participated in this development and lived to see the fruition of the dreams of the city's founders. She was the widow of Jacob



**MRS. CAROLINE A. KAMM**  
Pioneer resident of Portland who  
died at her home last night at an  
advanced age.

Kamm, pioneer steamboat owner and builder and one of the state's best-known capitalists.

Caroline Augusta Gray was born at Lapwai mission October 16, 1840, 14 years before the republican party was founded and 21 years before the outbreak of the civil war. Lapwai mission was 90 miles east of the Whitman mission and on a site ten miles from the present site of Lewiston, Idaho. Her father was William H. Gray, who arrived in the wild Oregon country with Dr. Whitman and Dr. W. H. Spalding in 1836. His title was secular agent at the mission where the Nez Perces were taught. He had brought his bride, Mary Augusta Dix, from New York.

#### Wedding Held in North.

Their daughter was educated at the seminary at Forest Grove, although she received much instruction also at home. She was still in her teens when she met Jacob Kamm, a young pioneer who was then forging to the front in the new town of Portland. They were engaged when Mr. Kamm went north on business matters connected with the boundary. He couldn't return on the date set for their wedding, so the girl went north to Fort Hope, B. C., where the negotiations over San Juan Island were in progress. The British admiral ordered a salute fired by his ships in tribute to Mrs. Kamm.

Portland has been the home of Mrs. Kamm ever since their marriage. Mr. Kamm bought heavily of real estate and erected numerous buildings in the city. He died December 14, 1912. The steamers Lurline, Undine, Lot Whitcomb and others well known to the river were built by Mr. Kamm. The Kamm home was built in 1871, and Mrs. Kamm had made her home there since that time.

#### Many Activities Assisted.

She engaged in numerous activities and philanthropies. She was the oldest member of the First Presbyterian church and a charter member of the missionary society. She aided the Y. M. C. A. and was a member of the finance committee of the Portland's Women's union which built the Martha Washington hotel for girl wage earners. She served with Mrs. H. L. Pittock on the finance committee while Mrs. C. R. Templeton, now visiting in Portland from California, was president.

Mrs. Kamm is survived by four grandchildren, Mrs. James A. McKinnon and Jacob G. Kamm of Portland;

Walker W. Kamm of Burlingame, Cal., and Philip S. Kamm of Hollywood. Three of them were present at the celebration of her 90th birthday in the fall of 1930. In June, 1930, she was crowned queen mother at the 59th annual reunion of the Oregon Pioneers' association. She was the grand aunt of Caroline Kamm Hahn, queen of the 1930 Rose Festival. Funeral arrangements are being made by Finley's.

Child of Jacob Kamm and Caroline Gray:

i. Charles Tilton Kamm

b. 20 Dec 1860 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

d. 11 Sep 1906

3. Mary Sophia Gray

b. 1842 Whitman Mission, Waiilatpu, Walla Walla Co, WA [per brother's bio]

d. 06 Dec 1895 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m. c 1863

Francis "Frank" M. Tarbell

b.

d. 20 Dec 1894 Tacoma, Washington

"The death of Francis Tarbell occurred on December 20, 1894. Brother Tarbell had served as territorial treasurer from 1875 to 1880." [History of Olympia Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M. Olympia, Washington 1852-1935. George E. Blankenship, Compiler Olympia, Washington]

1850: Clatsop, Oregon Territory, H.W. Gray, 40, farmer, \$10,000, NY; Mrs., 41, NY; J.H., 11, m, OR; C.A., 10, f, OR; M.S., 8, f, OR; S., 7, f, OR; W.P., 6, m, OR; E.H., 4, m, OR; A.W., 7/12, OR

1875-1880: Thurston Co, WA, Francis Tarbell, real estate agent, b. NY; Mary S., b. WT; Geo H., b. BC

1880: Olympia, Thurston Co, WA, June 2, 1880; Francis Tarbell, 50, Territorial Treasurer, NY VT VT; Mary S., 38, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Geo H., 15, son, at home, British Columbia, NY OR

1885: Pierce Co, WA, Francis Tarbell, b. NY; Mary S., b. WT; Geo H., b. BC

### **The Death List.**

**Mrs. Mary S. Tarbell, wife of Francis Tarbell, died at Portland yesterday. The body will be interred here. She was a pioneer of this state and well known in Seattle and Olympia. Her funeral will take place from Trinity church at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.**

[Tacoma Daily News, Tacoma, WA, December 7, 1895 p5]

Child of Francis Tarbell and Mary Gray:

- i. George Henry Tarbell
- b. 19 Sep 1864 Victoria, British Columbia, Can
- d.

4. Sarah Fidelia Gray

b. 25 Nov 1843 Salem, Marion Co, OR

d. 02 Mar 1931

buried Riverview Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR



MRS. SARAH F. ABERNETHY

[Centennial History of Oregon by Gaston p.72-8]

m. 25 Jun 1863 Clackamas Co, OR

William Abernethy (Pioneer of 1840)

b. 16 Sep 1831 New York, New York County, NY

d. 30 Dec 1916

buried Riverview Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

s/o George Abernethy and Anna Pope



WILLIAM ABERNETHY

[Centennial History of Oregon by Gaston p.72-8]

1850: Clatsop, Oregon Territory, H.W. Gray, 40, farmer, \$10,000, NY; Mrs., 41, NY; J.H., 11, m, OR; C.A., 10, f, OR; M.S., 8, f, OR; S., 7, f, OR; W.P., 6, m, OR; E.H., 4, m, OR; A.W., 7/12, OR

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

“William Abernethy, aged 85 years, son of Oregon's first Governor and himself a pioneer of 1840, died at home in this city last Saturday. Born in New York City in 1831 and when nine years old, came to Oregon with his parents who were members of a Methodist Missionary company of 50 people. On June 14, 1863 he married Miss Sarah Fidelia Gray at The Dalles. The family came to this city from Southern Oregon in 1904.

Survived by a widow and the following children: Mrs. Anna M Starr, Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. Caroline A Burgess, Seattle, Washington; William Abernnethy, Tacoma; Edward P S, of McKinley, Oregon; Mrs. Violet Swanton, Marshfield, Oregon; Miss Daisey Hahn, Multnomah, Oregon; Miss Camilla D Abernethy, Forest Grove; Mrs. Mizpah I Waterman, Welches, Oregon.”  
[Forest Grove Express, January 4, 1917]

## FUNERAL NOTICES.

**ABERNETHY**—At Forest Grove, Or., March 2, Sarah F. Abernethy, aged 87 years, mother of Mrs. Anna M. Starr of Monroe, Wash.; Mrs. Caroline Burgess of Seattle, Wash.; William G. Abernethy of Tacoma, Wash.; Edwin P. S. Abernethy of Dora, Or.; Mrs. Violet A. Swanton of Eugene, Or.; Mrs. Sarah F. Hahn of Charlottesville, Va.; Mrs. Pearl D. Miller of Coquille, Or.; Mrs. Frances M. Hahn of Multnomah, Or.; Miss Camilla D. Abernethy of Forest Grove; Mrs. Mizpah I. Waterman of Portland; sister of Mrs. Caroline A. Kamm of Portland. Mrs. Abernethy is survived by 30 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. The funeral services will be held Wednesday, March 4, at 11:30 A. M. at Finley's Chapel, Montgomery at 5th. Friends invited. Commitment Riverview cemetery.

[Morning Oregonian, March 3, 1931 p13]

Children of William Abernethy and Sarah Gray:

i. Anna May Abernethy (Starr)

b. 1870 OR

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocila G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

ii. Caroline A. Abernethy (Burgess)

b. 1872 OR

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocila G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng



iii. William G. Abernethy

b. 1874

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

iv. Edwin P.S. Abernethy

b. Sep 1875 OR

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

v. Violet Ocia G.. Abernethy (Swanton)

b. Oct 1877 OR

d.

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

vi. Sarah F. "Daisy" Abernethy (Hahn)

b. Oct 1877 OR

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

vii. Pearl D. Abernethy (Miller)

b. 1879

d.

1880: Western Pct, Multnomah Co, OR, June 11 & 12, 1880; Wm. Abernathy (sic), 49, farmer, NY NY England; S.F., 36, wife, keeping house, OR NY NY; Anna May, 10, dau, at school, OR; Caroline A., 8, dau, at school, OR; William, 6, son, at home, OR; Edwd P.S., 4, son, at home, OR; Ocia G., 2, dau, at home, OR; S. F. , 2, dau, at home, OR; Pearl D., 1, dau, at home, OR; O. Carroll, 36, laborer, NY Ire Eng

viii. Frances M. Abernethy (Hahn)

b. Feb 1881 OR

d.

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

ix. Camilla D. Abernethy

b. Dec 1883 OR

d.

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

- x. Mizpah I. Abernethy (Waterman)
- b. Jun 1887 OR
- d.

1900: Dora, Coos Co, OR, June 14, 1900; William Abernethy, head, Sep 1830, 69, m-37yrs, NY NY Eng, farmer; Sarah F., wife, Nov 1843, 56, m-37yrs, 13-10, OR NY NY; Edwin P.S., son, Sep 1875, 24, s, OR, farm laborer; Violet O.G., dau, Oct 1877, 22, s, OR; Frances M., dau, Feb 1881, 19, s, OR, at school; Camilla D., dau, Dec 1883, 16, s, OR, at school; Mizpah I., dau, Jun 1887, 12, s, OR, at school; Robbie Ray, son (adopted), Feb 1895, 5, s, OR Can (Fr) Denmark; Marion C. Miller, boarder, Oct 1869, 30, m-1 ½ yr, VA MD VA, farmer

- xi. George Henry Abernethy
- b.
- d. age 10 years

- xii. Mary Abernethy
- b.
- d. aged 1 year

- xiii. Priscilla Abernethy
- b.
- d. aged 3 years

“WILLIAM ABERNETHY is one of the venerable citizens of Forest Grove, having attained the age of eighty years. Much of this period has been spent in Oregon and in the improvement of his business opportunities here he has won success that now enables him to live retired. His birth occurred in New York city. September 16, 1831. His father, George Abernethy, was also a native of the American metropolis, born October 7, 1807, and there he acquired his education. In early manhood he wedded Anne Pope, who was born in Plymouth, England, September 10, 1811. Their wedding was celebrated in New York. January 21, 1830, and the remains of both now rest in Riverview cemetery of Portland. Oregon, the father having died in that city May 2, 1877. The mother, however, passed away in New York city, April 30. 1884. but her remains were brought back to this state for interment. In the family were two children, the younger being Annie Abernethy, who became the wife of General H. C. Hodges, of the United States army who is now retired and lives in Buffalo. New York. His wife passed away in Washington, D. C, April 31, 1911. General Hodges is a graduate of the West Point Military Academy and was stationed first in the Indian Territory and later in Vancouver, Washington, where he served as adjutant of the Fourth Infantry. Subsequently he was transferred to California and afterward to Philadelphia.

Few residents of Oregon have resided within the borders of this state for a longer period than William Abernethy, who came to the northwest in 1840 when but nine years of age, landing at Vancouver, Washington, on the 1st of June, 1840, after having made the long voyage around Cape Horn on the ship Lausanne. His father came to the Pacific coast as secular agent of Methodist missions and was stationed first at Salem and afterward at Oregon City, assisting in building the Methodist church at the latter place. He also erected the first brick store in Oregon

City, it being the second brick building in the entire state. He was very prominent as a factor in the early progress and upbuilding of this section of the country and was chosen the first provisional governor of Oregon Territory for two terms of four years. That he filled the office most capably is indicated by the fact that he was reelected while on a trip to the Sandwich islands. Following the expiration of his second term and his retirement from office, he owned and operated the Linn City (Oregon) Works, a flour mill and saw mill, and when that business was burned out he turned his attention to the commission business in Portland, where he resided up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was sixty-six years of age.

Brought to the northwest in his early boyhood. William Abernethy largely acquired his education in Willamette University. Later he went to California, in 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold in that state. He next made his way to New York city, where he spent three years as a student in the James McEllicott School. He next became a student in the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, in which he spent three years, and later matriculated for a three years' course in the scientific department of Vale University, completing his studies within the classical walls of that old institution in 1853. In the same year he returned to the Pacific coast, making his way to Oregon City, after which he began farming at Green Point. he next went to Portland, where he engaged in assaying for George Collier Robbins, of that city. He subsequently spent a year at The Dalles and another year at Boise, after which he returned to Portland, where he established a packing business and bag factory. Here he suffered losses through fire, the factory being totally destroyed, after which he removed to Abernethy Heights, near Oswego, Oregon where he lived for about a quarter of a century, and then sold his property there, comprising one hundred and sixty and a third acres, to a syndicate. This is now one of the most beautiful residence districts in the vicinity of Portland. For a year thereafter he resided in the Rose city, and in August, 1891, removed to Coos county, where he continued until 1904. In that year he came to Forest Grove, where he still resides, resting now in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil and the handsome competence which he has gained through his investments.

On the 25th of June, 1863. Mr. Abernethy was married to Miss Sarah F. Gray, who was born November 25, 1843 at the mission near Salem. Oregon. Her father, William H. Gray, was born in New York state in December, 1810, and came to Oregon in 1836 with Dr. Marcus Whitman, engaging in missionary work. In early life he had been apprenticed to the cabinet makers trade and later had studied medicine for three years, but ill health forced him to abandon his studies and go to the mountains. It was at this time that he associated himself with the American Board of Missions and this led to his removal to the Pacific coast. When he severed his connection with the missions he went to Clatsop Plains where he rendered medical aid to those in need of such service. At length he went east to buy sheep for himself and farmers in that locality. He brought the sheep across the plains to Portland, where he put them on flat boats to be taken to their destination, but a storm came up and wrecked the boats, so that all of the sheep were drowned. Mr. Gray thus losing everything that he had for he invested his entire fortune in the sheep. He at once sought employment in other ways, accepting anything that he could find to do in order that he might properly care for his family and retrieve his fortune. Going to Astoria he built a house and kept boarders. Later he removed to Fort Hope, on the Frazier river in British Columbia and built a sloop, after which he engaged in freighting between Fort Hope and Fort Yale, remaining at that point for two years, or in 1859 and 1860. He afterward built a sloop called the Sarah F. Gray, which he brought down the Columbia river. In July 1861, he went to Portland and afterward to The Dalles and engaged in freighting on the Columbia and Snake rivers. Again he turned to Astoria

and took up his abode upon a farm where his wife died, while he passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. Kamm. in Portland.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Abernethy were born thirteen children of whom three died in early life: George Henry, who passed away at the age of ten years; .Mary, who died at the age of one year; and Priscilla. at the age of three years. The others are: Anna May, the wife of P.. W. Starr, of Tacoma, Washington, in the office of the Shasta Limited; Caroline A., the wife of the Rev. H. F.

Burgess, of Sunnyside, Washington; William Gray, who was in Alaska for eleven years and is now a mining engineer living in Tacoma, Washington; Edwin P. S. A., who is running a mill in Coos county: Violet O. G., the wife of Bennett Swanton, a lawyer of Marshfield, Oregon; Daisy S. F., who is the twin sister of Violet and the wife of Archie Hahn. of Whitman College, of Walla Walla, Washington; Pearl Dunning, the wife of M.C. Miller, of Dora, Oregon; Frances Mary, the wife of A. T. Hahn. a mining engineer with the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company of Portland; Camilla D.. at home and Mizpah I., the wife of Virgil E. Waterman, of Welches, Oregon.

Such in brief is the history of W illiam Abernethy, yet it tells little of his real experiences for he lived in this state long before its admission to the Union. At the time of his arrival here the major part of the great forests was uncut, the natural resources of the stale were unimproved and the Indians far outnumbered the white settlers. Here and there a little settlement was to be seen and the seeds of civilization planted by the early residents have born rich fruit. Mr. Abernethy has not only been an interested witness of all the changes which have occurred as the years have gone by, but has ever borne his part in the work of public improvement and up building. [Centennial History of Oregon by Gaston Vol iv p.72-8]

***[American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writer's Project 1936-1940] [Early Portland Folkways]***

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“Project worker: Claire W. Churchill

Date: March, 1938

Name and address of informant: Anne Abernethy Starr. Monroe, Washington (visiting Portland) Date and time of interview Noon hour - 11 AM to 1 PM

Place of interview Office Myler Bldg

Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant

Through informant's sister, Miss Camilla Abernethy.

Information obtained should supply the following facts:

1. Ancestry: American ancestry.
2. Place and date of birth: Born in Portland, Oregon, 1869.
3. Family: Sarah Fidelia Gray (daughter W. H. Gray, pioneer missionaries) and William Abernethy (son George Abernethy, 1st provisional governor Oregon country).
4. Places lived in, with dates: Portland, 1869-1890
5. Education, with dates: Portland public schools
6. Occupations and accomplishments with dates: One of the first telephone

operators in Portland. Later worked as draughtsman for Park & Lacey Machinery Co., Portland.

7. Special skills and interests: Seamstress, where "stitches could not be seen." An expert knitter, where three pair of socks was no unusual output for a day's work.

Draughtsman or draughtswoman

8. Community and religious activities: No religious affiliations mentioned, presumably Congregational.

9. Description of informant: None given.

10. Other points gained in interview: An exceptional personality

#### INTERVIEW with Anne Abernethy Starr

Mrs. Anne Abernethy Starr, who now lives in Monroe, Washington, is the daughter of Sarah Fidelia Gray and William Abernethy. She was born in Portland in 1869. Sarah Fidelia Gray, her mother, was born at Salem, Oregon, November 1843. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gray, pioneer missionaries to the Oregon country. W. H. Gray was the author of Oregon History. This book, according to Mrs. Starr is now worth \$25.00. William Abernethy, her father, son of George Abernethy, was born in New York State, New York City, 1831. George Abernethy, who arrived with the Methodist mission contingent, became a merchant at the Falls of the Willamette (Oregon City) and was elected the Provisional governor of the Oregon country, an office to which he was re-elected.

After the flood of 1861 George Abernethy removed to Portland where he again engaged in merchandising. His establishment at the Falls was furnished merchandise by his own ships which brought supplies from the east and from the Sandwich Islands. Abernethy money, a kind of scrip issued by the Abernethy store, was commonly used during the pioneer period when U. S. coins were scarce. Abernethy was prominently identified, according to Mrs. Starr, with the provision for and the coining of Beaver money, the gold five and ten dollar pieces minted by the Oregon Exchange Company at Oregon City.

Mrs. Starr spent her early life in Portland. Being the oldest of eleven children she found many things to occupy her hands. Children in those days learned to knit at an early age, so young, in fact, that Mrs. Starr cannot remember a time when she could not knit. When questioned as to whether an output of three socks a day was not very large, she replied that it was not, *{Begin page no. 2}* explaining that the hand spun yarn used in those days was soft and large, and knitted very fast. Mrs. Starr was taught to sew by her Grandmother Abernethy, a wonderful seamstress who required that any stitches that could be seen must be ripped out.

Material was bought by the bolt, rather than by the yard. As a girl, Anne made dozens of pairs of panties, dozens of petticoats, aprons, and dresses for her younger sisters. Her family did not have one of the hand-turned sewing machines, but they did have one of the earliest sewing machines used in this country. William Abernethy, son of George Abernethy, had the first sewing machine

agency in the Northwest. His agents, as far north as Walla Walla, found a ready market for the old Wheeler-Wilson machines. Some of the correspondence relating to the sales of sewing machines is still in the possession of the family. Before they had a machine, all sewing was done by hand. Anne made a complete hand-sewn dress for herself when she was eight years old.

She attended school at the old Central school in Portland. Miss Fannie Holman was her teacher advancing with the grades. The recent visit of President Roosevelt to Portland recalled to her the visit of President Hayes in 1878. The children of old Central School, lined up on the sidewalk and street, greatly excited over the appearance of so distinguished a caller as President Hayes. He addressed them from the steps of the schoolhouse.

The Portland George Abernethy residence was at the corner of 7th and Salmon Streets. It was moved back from its original location, and then, several years ago, was dismantled entirely. About 1868 William Abernethy bought 163 acres of land at what is now known as Abernethy Heights, not far from Oswego on the River Road. The house built there is still standing, but it has been considerably remodeled, presenting today the appearance of a colonial structure. Originally it was of two-story construction with a balcony along the second floor and a porch on the first. The kitchen was at the back, either in an addition *{Begin page no. 3}* or under the extended roof. Elk Bluff and Elk Rock are both on the old Abernethy property. This farm was on the first macadam road out of Portland, a toll road, with the toll gate at the Red House, a tavern on the river road. Some distance farther up the river, and nearer the Abernethy place was another road house, the White House, near which there was a race track where horse races were held. A bachelor named Leonard owned the White House. Mrs. Starr says she can remember when this road was built, and recalls seeing the chain gang of prisoners breaking rock for construction purposes. Mr. Bader, 316 Railway Exchange Building, Portland, can tell something of the present owners of the Abernethy place or at least can give directions for reaching it. Harvey Starkweather can do the same. The Abernethy place was occupied by the Summervilles, then by Will Ladd and later by the McKay family. They may own it now.

Anne Abernethy was a niece of Caroline Gray Kamm and used to make trips on the river boats owned by Jacob Kamm, her uncle by marriage, and Captain Will Pope, a cousin of her father, Wm. Abernethy. She said that one of her happiest memories was taking a trip up the Columbia, accompanied by a girl chum, Anne Pope. They were the only passengers. That evening at dinner the crew amused their guests by telling tall tales. When the engineer, who was supposed to be the greatest liar of them all had finished his tale about the fish that flipped right out of the frying pan and into the sea, Anne Abernethy told her tale. It happened that she had considerable experience as a narrator, being trained from youth to entertain her younger brothers and sisters with folk tales. The story she told concerned a cat that couldn't be killed. After trying innumerable means of death, the irate owner took the cat into the woods and chopped its head off with an axe. Well satisfied

that he had at last killed the animal, he returned home. Imagine his astonishment when he reached home to discover the cat sitting on the doorstep, holding its head in its mouth!

The Abernethy children were a healthy lot. Ten of them lived to maturity. For fifty years their circle was not broken. Then, in January, 1937, one of the ten died. The others, still living, are as follows:

Mrs. Ocia Swanton, Eugene; and her twin, Mrs. Sarah Hahn, University, Va.; Mrs. Pearl Miller, Dora, Oregon; Mrs. Frances Hahn, married to a man with the same name as her sister's husband; with even the same initials, but no relation to him; Miss Camilla Abernethy, Forest Grovo, Oregon; Mrs. Mizpah Waterman, 2222 S.E. 19th St., Portland, Oregon; William Abernethy, Route 4, Tacoma, Washington; and Edwin Abernethy, Dora, Oregon.

In pioneer times, even a merchant such as George Abernethy did not have white sugar for daily use. White sugar, packed in blue paper in cubes, was brought from the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands and was served only on feast days, special occasions, or for company tea. Brown sugar, coarse-grained, was used for daily fare. Both brown sugar and flour were always bought and sold by the barrel. "Bread and butter with sugar on", as the children said, was a favorite for lunch and for those in-between meals that youngsters love. "Grandma always does".

Anne Abernethy was one of the first telephone operators in Portland. The exchange, located down toward the present waterfront, was operated by four girls. They not only had to know the names of all the phone patrons, but had to memorize the exchange numbers as well. Directories were not used at first, and patrons rang central and asked for the party they wished by name. Pat Bacon, now prominent as a telephone company official, retired, worked for the company when Anne Abernethy did.

Later she worked as a draughtsman for Park and Lacey Machinery Co. It was her responsibility to go into the yards, measure the various patterns and then make drawings of them. She was so adept at this work that when she quit the firm to be married the foreman was greatly chagrined.

She was married to Benjamin Wallace Starr, in the old Congregational Church in Portland, September 17, 1890. Rev. Walker performed the ceremony. Mr. Starr was descended from the Massachusetts Starrs, who were the common {Begin page no. 5}ancestors of the other Oregon Starrs who lived in Benton County.

Dr. Comfort Starr owned (1632 {Begin inserted text}?{End inserted text} - date he arrived) a farm on the present site of Harvard University. What the students identify as the college "yard" was formerly the front yard of the Starr farm. Benjamin Starr was born 1860 in Missouri, although his people had formerly lived in New York State. He grew up in California, came to Oregon in 1887. Wm.



Abernethy went from Oregon to California in 1849 during the gold rush. He reported that the mosquitos in the Sacramento Valley were so large and so vicious that they could drill holes in iron pots, and that their stingers were so long they could be clinched on the other side of the pot.

Play parties were frequent in the early days, and once a year at least "balls", which were real social occasions, were held. The Governor's Ball and the Pioneer Ball, were specially fine. Singing schools were held in an earlier day. Mrs. Starr says that her grandfather Gray led and taught singing by playing upon his flute, but that he never sang a note. Birthdays were festive occasions in the Abernethy family, and Christmas, Thanksgiving, and the Fourth of July were always observed.

When queried about pioneer foods, Mrs. Starr recalled the cracked wheat "gems", hot bread now generally called "muffins" and a kind of sour milk biscuit or hot cake made of stale bread. Stale bread was soaked overnight in sour milk. The next morning soda was added for leavening, and perhaps an egg for binding the mass together. It was then fried in cakes or baked in iron gem pens.

Governor Abernethy was originally buried in the Lone Fir Cemetery but his body was later removed to the Riverview Cemetery where it is guarded by a shaft on which the D.A.R. has placed an appropriate plaque. Other members of the family are also buried there. W. H. Gray and his wife are buried now at the site of the Waiilatpu Mission, near the Whitmans. They were buried originally {*Begin page no. 6*} on Clatsop Plains. A tall shaft on a small hill commemorates all the workers at the Mission.

Among documents which the family has preserved is an original James Douglas letter. It was once published in the Spectator many years ago. The family also has letters signed by Peter Skene Ogden and some by Douglas and Ogden. Douglas and Ogden, she says, were joint factors at Fort Vancouver, following Dr. McLoughlin's retirement.

The family also has a piece of printed material, a special newspaper or bulletin issued as a call for volunteers when the Whitman massacre occurred. They also have several printed papers, but there may be duplicates in the Oregon Historical Society.

There is also an old account book, kept by George Abernethy, but Mrs. Starr is not positive where it is now kept. It should show the transactions of a pioneer store, what was bought and sold, and the general trend of business and price levels and changes, and should be of considerable importance.

There are probably a good many letters written by Grandmother Gray in the archives of the Connecticut D.A.R. Mrs. Gray kept a diary, but it was burned when the house in which they lived in Astoria, was burned. She wrote her letters

in a diary form and sent long ones to relatives in the East. It took from one to three years to get an answer.

One of the incidents told about Grandmother Gray was that concerning the removal of the Gray family from the Whitman Mission to the Willamette Valley. When the family, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, and three small children, reached a place near The Dalles, the snow fell so fast they could not go on. Threatened with death by exposure, Mr. Gray sent an Indian to Vancouver for help. Dr. McLaughlin sent a boat. Ascending through the storm, the pilot was at loss to discover the people he was sent to rescue. Then across the wind-blown water, he heard a sweet voice singing hymns. Mrs. Gray was undaunted in her faith in the Lord. Guided by the song the boatman reached the family and took them to safety.

Name and address of informant Anne Abernethy Starr, (Mrs.): Monroe, Washington.

Comment: Descendant of one of Oregon's prominent early families, Mrs. Starr remains an outstanding personality. Alert, intelligent, very cooperative. Has some material on imprints, I believe. Informant read interview and verified details."

- 5. (Capt) William Polk Gray
- b. 26 Jul 1845 Oregon City, Clackamas Co, OR
- d. 26 Oct 1929 Pasco, WA

1850: Clatsop, Oregon Territory, H.W. Gray, 40, farmer, \$10,000, NY; Mrs., 41, NY; J.H., 11, m, OR; C.A., 10, f, OR; M.S., 8, f, OR; S., 7, f, OR; W.P., 6, m, OR; E.H., 4, m, OR; A.W., 7/12, OR

1870: Astoria, Clatsop Co, OR, June 16, 1870; W.H. Gray, 59, inspector, \$3000 \$200, NY; Mary A., 60, keeping house, NY; William, 24, pilot, \$500 \$700, OR; Oceana, 22, on the ocean; Albert, 19, laborer, OR; James, 17, at school, OR; Maggie, 16, at school, OR

1913: Reminiscences of Captain William P. Gray by Fred Lockley, Oregon Historical Society Quarterly, Vol xiv December 1913 #4 p.321-354

# NOTED RIVER PILOT SUCCUMBS AT PASCO

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Captain William P. Gray in  
Steamboat Development.

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FATHER FAMOUS PIONEER

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Late Columbia Character Widely  
Known in Northwest, Due  
to His Adventures.

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PASCO, Wash., Oct. 26.-(Special.)-  
Captain William P. Gray, 84, widely  
known pioneer steamboat pilot and  
captain in the northwest, died today  
at the local hospital. He had been ill  
for only a few days, though he had  
aged rapidly the past few months.

Captain Gray had a very colorful  
career, having navigated most of the  
rivers in the northwest, and having  
commanded a ship between Nome  
and Seattle at one time.

Captain Gray was born at Oregon  
City, Or., July 26, 1845. His father,  
William H. Gray, was a member of  
the Marcus Whitman party, having  
crossed the plains twice with the  
famous missionary. His wife was  
Oceana Falkland Bush, born at sea  
near the Falkland islands, en route  
from the Atlantic coast to San  
Francisco. Her mother died before  
the ship reached port, and the little  
girl was adopted by the Hawthorne  
family. This name was afterward  
given to the youngest child, Captain  
Hawthorne C. Gray, who was killed  
November 3, 1927, while setting a  
new world's altitude record for free  
balloons at Schottfield in Illinois.

Funeral arrangements have not yet  
been completed.

## CAPTAIN PIONEER OF PILOTS

### 60 Years Spent in Rushing, White Rivers of Northwest.

For 60 years Captain W. P. Gray dared the white waters, boiling eddies and dangerous rocks of northwest rivers. He was a pioneer pilot on many streams, but retired at Pasco a number of years ago.

Captain Gray's father first came west with Dr. Marcus Whitman in 1837 and participated in the meeting for the provisional government at Champoege. It was his father who first published the statement that the vote at Champoege was 52 to 50. Besides being a religious man the elder Gray was a boat builder and pilot. Captain Gray followed in his father's steps.

The captain was born at Oregon City, July 26, 1845, and began steamboating with his father on the Cascadilla on the upper Columbia in 1862, although he had previously sailed a sloop on Fraser river. After leaving the Cascadilla he served as pilot on the Colonel Wright, and was on that steamer when an attempt was made to take the boat through Snake river canyon. He ran on several boats of the Oregon Steam Navigation company in the middle and upper Columbia and from there went to the lower river and the upper Willamette and Yamhill. He spent several months navigating the Stikeen and was on several routes on Puget sound. In 1888 he took the City of Ellensburg from Pasco to the mouth of the Okanogan river, the first boat ever taken through Rock Island rapids.

The only man who ever took a steamer from the mouth of the Columbia to the mouth of the Okanogan was Captain Gray, a feat which was accomplished in the 60s and has never been duplicated. The swift waters of the Yukon, Frazer, Stikeen or Columbia were the same to him. He had an instinct in white water which enabled him to pilot his boats in safety through perilous places. On the Fraser he operated a scow with

four Indians as a crew. His first command on the Columbia was the sloop Sarah F. Gray, a sailboat, which transported freight for the Salmon river mines from the mouth of the Deschutes to Wallula, the trip requiring two days and longer to reach Lewiston, but the down trip was made in half a day, owing to the swift current.

In 1877 Captain Gray made 14 trips on the Stikeen between Fort Wrangel and Glenora. Before the Klondike rush he built two boats at Vancouver, B. C., the Nahline and Iskoot. In 1899 the captain took a cold-storage boat to St. Michaels with food for the miners at Dawson, and he took the steamer Nora to White Horse from Dawson. The following year he went over the ice from Lake Bonnett to Dawson and took the Talbott down the stream and placed her in the Snake river, near Nome.

In the gold rushes to Fraser river mines, Salmon river, the Boise basin and the Klondike, Captain Gray was always a part, his task being the piloting of boats bringing food and other supplies to the miners. As the mines were in new territory, reached only by swift streams, Captain Gray became an outstanding swift-water pilot.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, October 27, 1929 p.18]

6. Edwin Hall Gray

b. c1846

d. c1854 died aged 8 years

1850: Clatsop, Oregon Territory, H.W. Gray, 40, farmer, \$10,000, NY; Mrs., 41, NY; J.H., 11, m, OR; C.A., 10, f, OR; M.S., 8, f, OR; S., 7, f, OR; W.P., 6, m, OR; E.H., 4, m, OR; A.W., 7/12, OR

7. Truman Powers Gray

b. c1848

d. c1850 died age 2 years

8. (Capt) Albert Williams Gray  
b. 1850 Clatsop Co, OR  
d. 12 Jul 1914 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

1850: Clatsop, Oregon Territory, H.W. Gray, 40, farmer, \$10,000, NY; Mrs., 41, NY; J.H., 11, m, OR; C.A., 10, f, OR; M.S., 8, f, OR; S., 7, f, OR; W.P., 6, m, OR; E.H., 4, m, OR; A.W., 7/12, OR

1870: Astoria, Clatsop Co, OR, June 16, 1870; W.H. Gray, 59, inspector, \$3000 \$200, NY; Mary A., 60, keeping house, NY; William, 24, pilot, \$500 \$700, OR; Oceana, 22, on the ocean; Albert, 19, laborer, OR; James, 17, at school, OR; Maggie, 16, at school, OR

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### **CAPTAIN GRAY IS AT REST**

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#### **Funeral of Pioneer Steamboat Man of Columbia Is Held.**

The funeral of Captain Albert Williams Gray, a pioneer steamboat man of the Columbia, who died Sunday, aged 61, was held yeesterday at Undertaker Skewes' chapel.

Captain Gray was one of the best-known steamboat masters on the Upper Columbia. He began his career at Annapolis, but did not complete the course. Leaving the naval academy he came around the Horn as quartermaster of a sailing vessel. He was mate of the steamboat Norma when she passed through the canyon of the Snake River, hitherto considered an impossible task. He was master of various steamboats on the Lewis and Lower Columbia for several years. Then he went to Alaska and for two years was captain of a steamer on the Yukon. He was on the Ulysses S. Grant at the time of her wreck in 1871, and on the Varuna, which took her place on the Ilwaco route. He had commanded the steamers Mary Bell, Vancouver, Welcome, Quickstep and Cleveland on the lower river and the Frederick Billings, City of Ellensburg and T. L. Nixon on the upper river. His three brothers were also successful steamboatmen.

Captain Gray is survived by two sons, Captain L. J. Gray and W. A. Gray; a daughter, Mrs. A. C. Johnson; two sisters, Mrs. Caroline A. Kamm and Mrs. Sarah Abernathy, and two brothers, Captains W. P. Gray, formerly Mayor of Pasco, and James F. Gray, with the Yukon Navigation Company.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, July 15, 1914 p.14]

9. (Capt) James Taylor Gray  
b. 1852 Clatsop Co, OR

d. 08 Dec 1928 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR  
m. Grace Howard

1870: Astoria, Clatsop Co, OR, June 16, 1870; W.H. Gray, 59, inspector, \$3000 \$200, NY; Mary A., 60, keeping house, NY; William, 24, pilot, \$500 \$700, OR; Oceana, 22, on the ocean; Albert, 19, laborer, OR; James, 17, at school, OR; Maggie, 16, at school, OR



James T. Gray as a lad  
[Oregonian, Portland, OR, December 4, 1950 p.25]



Grace Howard

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, December 4, 1950 p.25]

James T. Gray papers

**Creator:** Gray, James T. (James Taylor), 1852-1928

**Title:** James T. Gray papers

**Dates:** 1867-1928 ( inclusive )

**Quantity:** 16.6 linear feet (29 containers)

**Collection  
Number:** Ax 207

**Summary:** James Taylor Gray (1852-1928) was a ship designer and transportation magnate involved in railroads and shipping in Oregon and Alaska. The collection consists of correspondence, business papers, plans and specifications for steamboat designs and parts, and photographs.

**Repository:** Special Collections and University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries  
1299 University of Oregon  
Eugene, Oregon, 97403-1299



(541) 346-3068  
[spcarref@uoregon.edu](mailto:spcarref@uoregon.edu)

**Languages:** Collection materials are in English.

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## Historical Note

James Taylor Gray was a businessman, steamboat designer, and pilot. Son of Oregon pioneer and historian, William Henry Gray, and the son-in-law of General Oliver Otis Howard, Gray's early business was real estate and railroad promotion in and near Astoria.

In partnership with L.W. Alderman, as the Alderman, Gray Company, he platted, founded, and sold property in the Columbia River town of Frankfort, Washington. He attempted to promote railroads from Frankfort to the coast and other destinations. Gray was associated with the Vancouver Transportation Company, a Columbia River steamboat firm. In 1902 he began working for the Northern Navigation Company and Northern Commercial Company of San Francisco, as Yukon River pilot, general agent, and boat designer and builder. In 1912 Gray returned to design river boats and barges, and later returned to the real estate business and management of family properties. Gray died in 1928.

## Content Description

The collection brings together important historical correspondence of two well-known families: the William Henry Gray family and the Oliver Otis Howard family. James T. Gray was married to Grace Howard, daughter of General Howard. Letters between Gray and his wife, Grace, form another important series, illuminating such subjects as steamboating on various Northwest and Alaska waters and the development of Frankfort, Washington. The letters of Mrs. Oliver Otis Howard to her daughter provide insight into the career of a military man from a wife's point of view. The business records include materials from real estate and transportation companies. The documents in the collection relate to Gray's Alaska ventures, his steamboat construction and design, and the affairs of the Frankfort Land Company. Included are an account book, diary, and manuscript navigation notes for the Columbia River. There is also a one-volume journal by Mrs. O.O. Howard kept en route to Oregon in 1875. The majority of the collection consists of specifications, blueprints, and drawings for steamboats and steamer parts.

Photograph series includes photographic negatives and prints of images of Alaska, including waterways, city and town life, and steamboats. Also includes images of the Gray family, the O.O. Howard and Gray families, waterways and steamboats in Oregon, and the Northern Commercial Company, Empire Trading Company, Alaska Commercial Company, Alaska Exploration Company, and the 1909 funeral of Gen. O.O. Howard.