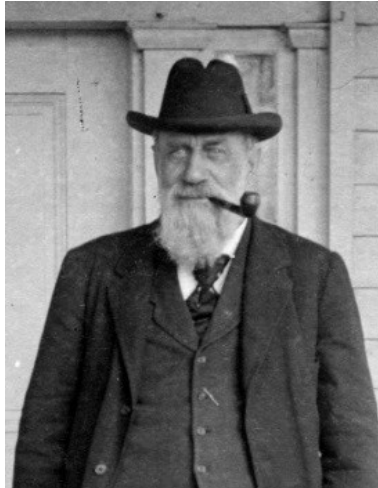


William Martin

Pioneer of 1843

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com



[photo taken at Daniel Waldo Farm
contributed by Brian Johnson]

Capt. William Martin

b. 03 May 1822 Hampshire County, West Virginia [headstone says 05 May 1822]

d. 25 Jun 1899 Siskiyou County, California

buried Olney Cemetery, Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon

m. c1870 California

Marcella White

b. 25 Aug 1832 Kinderhook, New York

d. 17 Jan 1917 Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon

buried Olney Cemetery, Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon

1860: Humbug, Siskiyou County, California, July 23, 1860; Henry Johnsta (??), 28, Hancock;
William Martin, 37, miner, \$1000, VA

1869: Alameda County, California, Voters Registration, William Martin, 47

1870: Granite, Grant County, Oregon, July 7, 1870; William Martin, 48, miner, \$0 \$100, VA; Marcella, 37, keeping house, NY; George White, 17, miner, NY

1880: Alto, Umatilla County, Oregon, June 22 & 23, 1880; William Martin, 58, farmer, VA VA VA; Marcella, 48, wife, keeping house, NY Ire Ire

Judge Martin.

Among the pioneers of Umatilla county is Judge Martin, one of the most widely known men in the state. Judge, or as he is more generally known, Captain William Martin, is a veteran of the Cayuse war of 1848. He mined in California in 1849. From early years he has taken an active part in Oregon politics, being the first sheriff of Champoug (now Marion) county. In 1871 he settled in Umatilla county, holding the office of sheriff from 1880 until 1886. In 1887 he was



Judge Martin.

elected mayor of Pendleton, and the following year county judge, which office he still holds. Captain Martin is an earnest republican and stalwart believer in its tariff, currency and other principles.

DEATH OF JUDGE MARTIN

CONSPICUOUS IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF OREGON.

Was Elected Sheriff of Old Clatsop County Over Half a Century Ago.

PENDLETON, Or., June 25. — County Judge William Martin, died at 9:30 this morning. He was elected county judge in 1898, and, had he lived until next year, would have served 12 years in that office. He had been sheriff of this county three terms, sheriff of Siskiyou county, California, and mayor of Pendleton. He was one of the early pioneers, and had, besides the title of judge, that of captain, which he earned in the Indian wars. Judge Martin was 77 years old, and had always had good health up to June 15, when he suffered from an apoplectic stroke.

Martin was a native of Hampshire county, Virginia (now West Virginia), and was born in May, 1822. When 9 years old, in 1831, he removed to St. Clair county, Missouri. Two years later, hearing in the accounts given by Dr. Marcus Whitman of the wonders of the North Pacific coast and the danger that England might wrest it from this country, Martin joined the Waldo train, and came across the plains. As in the case of all pioneers of those days, the train in which he came over the plains was encompassed by dangers from Indians, and the march across the continent was in military form, with constant watchfulness on the part of the cavalcade.

The train arrived in Oregon in December, 1842. The majority of the people comprising it went to the west and located on the Waldo hills, east of Salem. When Judge Martin passed down the valley of the Umatilla river, there was nothing of Pendleton, now a city of more than 5000 inhabitants. As he looked at the apparently barren lands of this region he and his companions little thought that years later he and others in the train would return here to make their homes, and witness the development of this section into one of the most marvelous granaries of the world. Martin crossed the Umatilla river at the ford where now stands the city of Pendleton.

In 1846, having made himself quickly a part of the new country into which he had come, he was elected sheriff of Champag county. This was one of the early political subdivisions of the state, embracing all that part of the Willamette valley on the east side of the river, from the Molalla on the north to the summit of the Callapoosias on the south; or, all of what is now comprised within the counties of Marion and Linn, a part of Clackamas and all of Lane east of the Willamette.

At the conclusion of his term of office, in 1848, the Cayuse Indians in this section were on the warpath, and volunteers were called for. It was from purely patriotic motives Martin responded, for the war was not menacing the region in which his interests were. Martin was elected captain of one of the companies, and its service was for more than nine months. The company scouted all over the big country between the Columbia river and the Blue mountains, from The Dalles to Spokane.

In 1849, when every one was wild over the rich gold discoveries in California, Martin went down into that state as far as Shasta county, but soon returned to Oregon, going again to California, however, in 1851, and taking up his residence in Blakely county, with his home in Yreka. In 1860, he was elected sheriff of the county, and, at the expiration of the term, in 1862, came back to Oregon. Passing by the then fairly well settled Willamette valley, he came on to Eastern Oregon, which was new and in need of sturdy pioneers, to make it over from the natural wildness of that period. Martin settled in the Granite creek mining district, which is now in Grant county, and was then attracting a rush of miners almost as great as that which went into California in 1849. The old ranch called the J. B. Despain ranch, on Snake creek, a tributary of Camas creek, 50 miles south of Pendleton, was taken up by Judge Martin in 1871, and at that time there was not a settler within many miles of him, for he was the pioneer settler of the Camas prairie, which now is a veritable garden spot, with rich dairying and livestock interests.

In 1880 he was elected sheriff of Umatilla county, although he was a staunch republican, and the county was then a rock-ribbed stronghold of democracy. He was re-elected in 1882 and 1884. In the fall of 1884 he was chosen as mayor of Pendleton, and in 1888 was elected judge of Umatilla county.



CAPT. W^M MARTIN,
PENDLETON, OR.
A PIONEER OF 1843.

CAPT. WILLIAM MARTIN.— Captain Martin, of the first real immigration, that of 1843, is still living in a hale age at Pendleton, Oregon. He was born in West Virginia in 1822, and came west to Missouri in 1841. In 1843 he joined a company coming to Oregon, being intimately associated with Daniel Waldo. Reaching Oregon after the vicissitudes of that eventful march, he took up a claim at Howell's Prairie, working for Waldo at ten dollars per month, although wages were sixty dollars. But the former figure was his pre-agreement with Waldo; and he would not dishonor it. In 1848 he enlisted in a company of a hundred and fifty men that went to the Walla Walla to punish the Cayuses for the murder of Doctor Whitman.

After the Indians were defeated at Sand Hollow, he was left in charge at Waiilatpu to protect the immigrants coming through, remaining there nine months.

In 1849 he went to California, and, although successful in digging gold, found that his rifle, with which he was an excellent shot, was nearly as profitable as a gold mine. There was a good market for venison at seventy-five cents per pound; and in three weeks he secured and disposed of eleven hundred dollars' worth. Provisions in general were worth three dollars per pound. This was on Trinity river. In 1850 he began the business of buying cattle in Oregon, and driving them to Yreka and other Northern California towns, and mining during the interims. This he continued until 1862, when he was lured away to Idaho by the great reports of gold discoveries at Florence. He was stopped midway, however, by discovering gold on the John Day river, and there remained thirteen years, still retaining an interest in quartz mining at that point.

After ranching at Camas Prairie, and raising sheep and cattle on Stewart creek, he moved to Pendleton in 1880, making that his home since. He has seen the most of the growth of the place. Mr. Martin has been justly honored with official trusts. He was sheriff of old Champoeg county, now Marion, etc., in 1846. In California he was sheriff of Siskiyou county for two years. In 1880 he was elected sheriff of Umatilla county by a majority of a hundred and twenty-two. He ran on the Republican ticket; and the county was strongly Democratic on a strictly party vote. He was re-elected in 1882, and again in 1884, but declined to run in 1886. He was elected, however, mayor of Pendleton in that year. In 1888 he was successful as candidate for county judge.

He found his wife in Siskiyou county, California, and has lived with her a happy life. A man of whom the state is proud, whom we cannot help liking, and who has borne the burden and heat of the day in every toil, and in exposure to the elements, and who has battled with the Indians;—such is Captain Martin.



HON. WILLIAM MARTIN,
Pendleton, Or.

[Republican League Register p. 261]

MARTIN, HON. WILLIAM, of Pendleton, was born in Hampshire County, West Virginia, May 5, 1822, and came to Oregon in 1843, settling in Marion County and engaging in farming. He moved to Umatilla County many years ago. He was a delegate to the state convention in 1886. In 1880, 1882 and 1884 Mr. Martin was elected Sheriff of Umatilla County, and in 1888 was elected County Judge, being re-elected in 1892, and being now for a third time the Republican nominee.

[Republican League Register p. 239]