Abel Ostrander

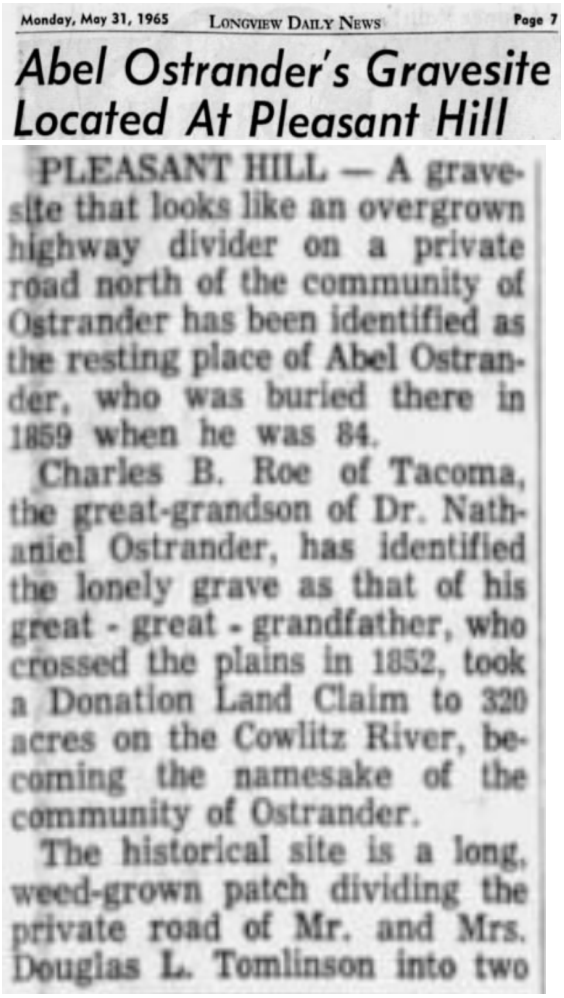
Pioneer of 1852

Compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

Abel Ostrander
b. 25 Mar 1777 Ulster County, New York
d. 03 Oct 1859 Cowlitz County, Washington
buried Abel Ostrander Grave, Cowlitz County, Washington

m. 1803 New York
Catherine Esterly
b. c 1785 New York
d. 23 Aug 1842 St. Louis, St. Louis County, Missouri
buried Bellefountaine Cemetery, St. Louis, St. Louis County, Missouri

1850: Carondetet, St. Louis County, Missouri, August 25, 1850; James McCowan, 50, carpenter, $2000, Ireland; Charlott, 41, NY; John, 12, MO; James, 9, MO; William, 3, MO; Robert, 1, MO; Abel Ostrander, 74, MO



Monday, May 31, 1965 LONGVIEW DAILY NEWS Page 7

Abel Ostrander's Gravesite Located At Pleasant Hill

PLEASANT HILL — A grave-site that looks like an overgrown highway divider on a private road north of the community of Ostrander has been identified as the resting place of Abel Ostrander, who was buried there in 1859 when he was 84.

Charles B. Roe of Tacoma, the great-grandson of Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander, has identified the lonely grave as that of his great - great - grandfather, who crossed the plains in 1852, took a Donation Land Claim to 320 acres on the Cowlitz River, becoming the namesake of the community of Ostrander.

The historical site is a long, weed-grown patch dividing the private road of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas L. Tomlinson into two

lanes for a small distance. The only noticeable characteristic of the patch is a rise in elevation and two broken fenceposts with rusty barbed wire, remnants of an earlier time when the grave was marked.

GRAVE IDENTIFIED

Mrs. George Umbaugh, Cowlitz County Museum curator, identified the grave and the surrounding land in an article in May's Cowlitz County Historical Quarterly, entitled "The Grave in the Middle of the Road."

According to Mrs. Umbaugh, who researched the question with Castle Rock pioneer Edward A. Johnson, the gravesite was a mystery in the 1890s.

Johnson and other old-timers can remember there being a fence around it rotting from age and a white rose planted there but it was an old, old grave even at that time. Some speculation held that it was the grave of Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander, until it was established that he is buried in Olympia, Mrs. Umbaugh wrote.

The spot where Abel Ostrander lies is on the land claim of his son, which is now divided and split into various portions. The Tomlinsons own 57 acres, including the private road.

The grave is reached by taking the old Pacific Highway 100

yards north of the Ostrander Weighing Station, then turning off onto Tomlinson's dirt road a ways north. Tomlinson's road goes through an old and narrow railroad underpass then leads straight toward the river.

Driving toward the gate to the river, the driver will see a dividing clump of weeds that splits the road into two sections. That's been the resting place of Abel Ostrander for more than 100 years.

CLEARING PLANNED

Mrs. Umbaugh says that a movement is under way to clear the weeds away, restore the fence and plant a white climbing rose again, as befits the grave of a pioneer who was born in 1776.

The house the Tomlinson's have lived in and are replacing with a new one has a history reaching almost as far back as the gravesite it overlooks. Mrs. Umbaugh reported the home was an old house in 1891 or 1892, according to Ed Johnson. It had been built by "Nick" Dahlquist, who bought land from Nathaniel Ostrander. The house was originally a "rough-board" one but Dahlquist covered the outside with siding when he was married in 1891 or 1892.

[Longview Daily News, Longview, Washington, Monday, May 31, 1965, p. 7]

Children of Abel Ostrander and Catherine Esterly:

1. David A. Ostrander [did not emigrate west]
b. 03 Mar 1805 New York
d. 04 Aug 1879 Jefferson County, Illinois

2. John Esterly Ostrander [did not emigrate west]
b. 14 May 1807 Ulster County, New York
d. May 1849 St. Louis, Missouri

3. Charlotte Ann Ostrander [did not emigrate west]
b. 04 Nov 1808 Ulster County, New York
d. 25 Dec 1851 St. Louis County, Missouri
buried Bellefountaine Cemetery, St. Louis, St. Louis County, Missouri
m. c1825 James McCowan

1850: Carondetet, St. Louis County, Missouri, August 25, 1850; James McCowan, 50, carpenter, $2000, Ireland; Charlott, 41, NY; John, 12, MO; James, 9, MO; William, 3, MO; Robert, 1, MO; Abel Ostrander, 74, MO

4. Catharine Ostrander [did not emigrate west]
b. 12 May 1814 Ulster County, New York
d. 26 Sep 1886 Staten Island County, New York
m. 06 Jun 1830 Christian VanNess

5. Nathaniel Ostrander [pioneer of 1850 and 1852]
b. 28 Dec 1818 Ulster County, New York
d. 07 Feb 1902 Thurston County, Washington
buried Odd Fellows Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington

m. 11 Apr 1838 Lafayette County, Missouri
Eliza Jane Yantis
b. 29 Jun 1819 Kentucky
d. 23 Feb 1899 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington
buried Odd Fellows Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington

1850: emigrated alone and returned to the east in 1851 and brought family in 1852

1860: Monticello PO, Cowlitz County, Washington, July 19, 1860; Nathaniel Ostrander, 42, physician, $3500 $1385, IL; Eliza J., 41, NY; Sarah D., 14, MO; Margaret J., 11, MO; Maria E., 8, OR; Isabella M., 4, WT; John E., 3, WT; Florence E., 1, WT; Wm F. Scott, 24, farmer, TN



The family of Nathaniel Ostrander, son of Abel Ostrander, taken sometime in the 1880s: Standing, from left, May (Eastman), John and Eva (Work); second row, Dr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Ostrander; bottom row, Fannie (Moore), Margaret Jane (O'Conner), Mary Ann (Roe), Teresa (Catlin), Priscilla Catherine (Redpath) and Florence (Crosby).



Descendants of Abel Ostrander present at the grave dedication are, left to right; Thomas R. Roe and his son Robert, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Roe Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Roe Sr., Mrs. Thomas R. Roe and Mrs. R. E. Bolling. The children are Jeannine and Sharon Roe, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Roe. Jr. and are the great-great-great-great-grandchildren of Abel Ostrander. The Roes are the descendants of Thomas Roe and Mary Ann Ostrander, second daughter of Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander. Mrs. Bolling is also from the same line.

[Longview Daily News, Longview, Washington, Saturday, June 18, 1966, p. 19]

Olympia Pioneer is Dead.

Eliza Jane Ostrander, wife of Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander, died at her home Feb. 25th, from a general breaking up of the system, superinduced by three paralytic strokes during the last seventeen years.

Mrs. Ostrander had been practically bedridden for five years, and for the last eighteen months has been unconscious and helpless, and has taken food with a tube through the nostril, administered by a physician.

Miss Eliza Jane Yates was born at Lexington, Ky. in 1819, and was married to Dr. Ostrander in 1837. In 1852 they started across the plains with their family and setled in Cowlitz valley, where they were among the first settlers. In 1872 they removed to Tumwater, and in 1879 to Olympia, where they have since resided.

The case of Mrs. Ostrander is one of the most remarkable in medical jurisprudence. Eight children survive her, namely: Mrs. C. B. Montague, Mrs. Thomas Roe, Mrs. Charles Catlin, Mrs. Ellery Eastman, Mrs. Walter Crosby, Mrs. C. M. Moore, Mrs. M. O'Connor and John Y. Ostrander.

[The Mason County Journal, Shelton, Washington, Friday, March 3, 1899, p. 1]

OLYMPIA PIONEER IS DEAD

Mrs. Eliza Jane Ostrander Dies After Being Unconscious Eighteen Months.

OLYMPIA, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Mrs. Eliza Jane Ostrander, wife of Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander, died at her home about 9 o'clock this morning from a general breaking up of the system, superinduced by three paralytic strokes during the last seventeen years.

Mrs. Ostrander had been practically bedridden for five years, and for the last eighteen months has been unconscious and helpless, and has taken food with a tube through the nostril, administered by a physician.

Miss Eliza Jane Yates was born at Lexington, Ky., in 1819, and was married to Dr. Ostrander in 1837. In 1852 they started across the plains with their family and settled in Cowlitz valley, where they were among the first settlers. In 1872 they removed to Tumwater, and in 1879 to Olympia, where they have since resided.

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The funeral services will be held on Sunday afternoon.

[The Tacoma Daily Ledger, Tacoma, Washington, Friday, February 24, 1899, p.1]

DEATH OF A PIONEER.

Mrs. Ostrander Relieved From a Long Season of Suffering.

The death of Mrs. Eliza J. Ostrander, wife of Dr. N. Ostrander, which occurred at the family residence on Eighth street yesterday morning at 10 o'clock, was not unexpected, for the afflicted woman had been bedfast and helpless for over a year, and death doubtless came as a happy release from her suffering.

The beginning of her affliction dates back nearly a score of years. Along in the early 80s she was stricken by paralysis. Five years ago she suffered another stroke, and about a year ago the third stroke prostrated her a helpless victim in which condition she remained, with the vital spark feebly aglow until relieved by death. It was only through the skill of her medical attendants and the care of her faithful watchers that life was so long maintained under the dreadful effects of a visitation which attacks the nerve centers.

Eliza Jane Yantis was born near Lexington, Ky., April 9, 1819, and was married to Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander in April, 1838. The doctor came West in 1850, and the succeeding year returned East to bring out his family. They came the "plains across" in 1852, by pioneer method, the ox-team. The doctor and his wife took up a donation claim on the Cowlitz river, then a part of Oregon, in 1852, and were among the first settlers of the valley. The doctor united farming with his profession until 1872, when they moved to Tumwater, where the doctor kept a drug store and engaged in practice until 1879, when he came to Olympia.

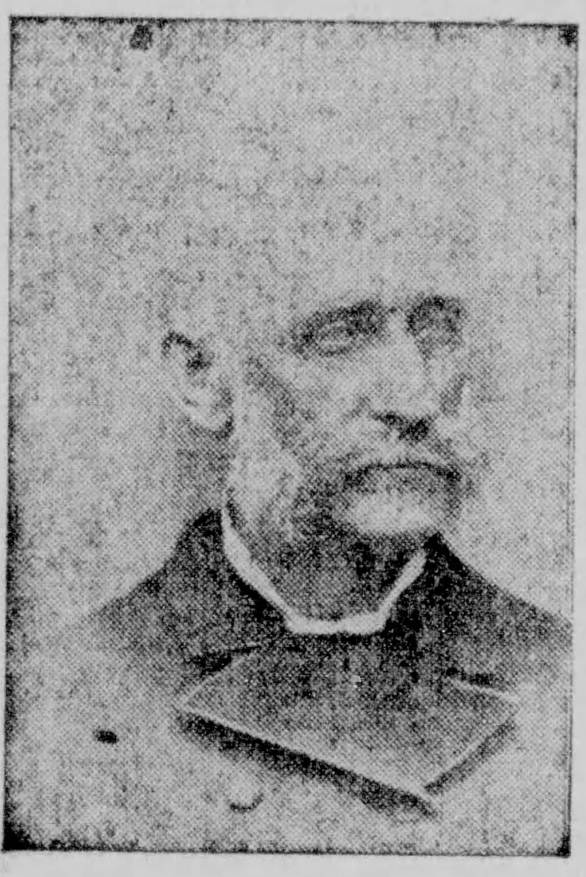
Mrs. Ostrander was the mother of eleven children eight of whom survive her. They are, Mrs. C. B. Montague, of Lebanon, Or.; Mrs. Thomas Roe, of Forest Grove, Or.; Mrs. Charles Catlin, Tacoma; Mrs. M. O'Connor, Mrs. E. H. Easterley, Mrs. Walter Crosby and Mrs. C. M. Moore, of this city, and John Y. Ostrander now at Dawson City. Mrs. Ostrander had two brothers who were well known pioneers in this county, Judge B. F. Yantis and A. S. Yantis.

The funeral will take place Sunday, but the hour had not been designated when this paper went to press.

[The Washington Standard, Olympia, Washington, Friday, February 24, 1899, p.3]

DR. N. OSTRANDER DEAD

Pioneer Settler and Physician Dies at Olympia

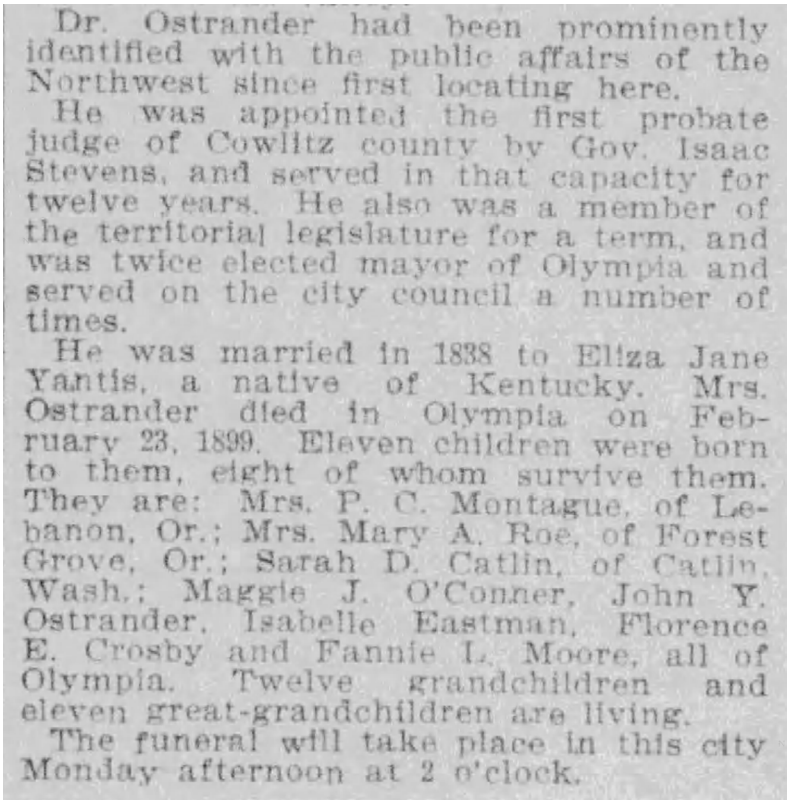


DR. NATHANIEL OSTRANDER

OLYMPIA, Feb. 7.—(Special.)—Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander, a pioneer of 1852, died this morning at his home in this city at the advanced age of 83 years. He was one of the most widely known pioneers of the state and one of its oldest physicians.

Nathaniel Ostrander was born in Ulster county, N. Y., December 28, 1818. His parents, Abel and Catherine Esterly Ostrander, were natives of New York, but emigrated to St. Louis in 1836. They remained there until 1852, when the father removed with his son to the then territory of Oregon and located a donation claim, upon which he lived until his death.

In 1845 Dr. Ostrander went to Cass county, Mo., and about this time began the study of medicine, pursuing his studies as he drove the plow. In 1847 he moved to Saline county, continuing his studies and attending two courses of lectures in the medical department of the St. Louis university. Here he was graduated in 1848. He practiced medicine in Saline county for two years, and in 1850 joined the tide of Western immigration and crossed the plains with an ox team to California. He passed a year at mining and in the practice of his profession at the Rough and Ready and Onion valley camps, and in the fall of 1851 returned to his family in St. Louis. He then converted his farm property into cash and purchased a prairie outfit of wagons and oxen and started for the Pacific coast, bringing his family and father. They arrived at their destination in the fall of 1852 and located on the Cowlitz river, being among the first settlers in the valley.



Dr. Ostrander had been prominently identified with the public affairs of the Northwest since first locating here.

He was appointed the first probate judge of Cowlitz county by Gov. Isaac Stevens, and served in that capacity for twelve years. He also was a member of the territorial legislature for a term, and was twice elected mayor of Olympia and served on the city council a number of times.

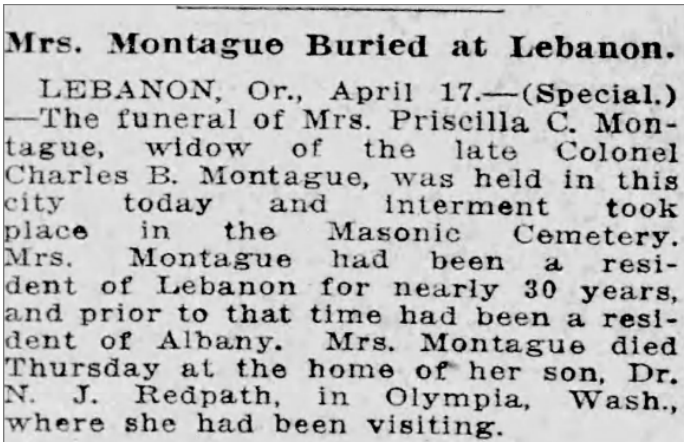
He was married in 1838 to Eliza Jane Yantis, a native of Kentucky. Mrs. Ostrander died in Olympia on February 23, 1899. Eleven children were born to them, eight of whom survive them. They are: Mrs. P. C. Montague, of Lebanon, Or.; Mrs. Mary A. Roe, of Forest Grove, Or.; Sarah D. Catlin, of Catlin, Wash.; Maggie J. O'Conner, John Y. Ostrander, Isabelle Eastman, Florence E. Crosby and Fannie L. Moore, all of Olympia. Twelve grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren are living.

The funeral will take place in this city Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

[Seattle Post Intelligencer, Seattle, Washington, Saturday, February 8, 1902, p. 8]

Children of Nathaniel Ostrander and Eliza Yantis:
i. Priscilla Catherine Ostrander
b. 15 Feb 1839 Lafayette County, Missouri
d. 15 Apr 1915 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington
buried IOOF Cemetery, Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon

m. 1879
Charles Bruce Montague
b. 04 Jan 1830 Scotland
d. 08 Dec 1912 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried IOOF Cemetery, Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon
m1. Mattha Malinda Peebler 1860



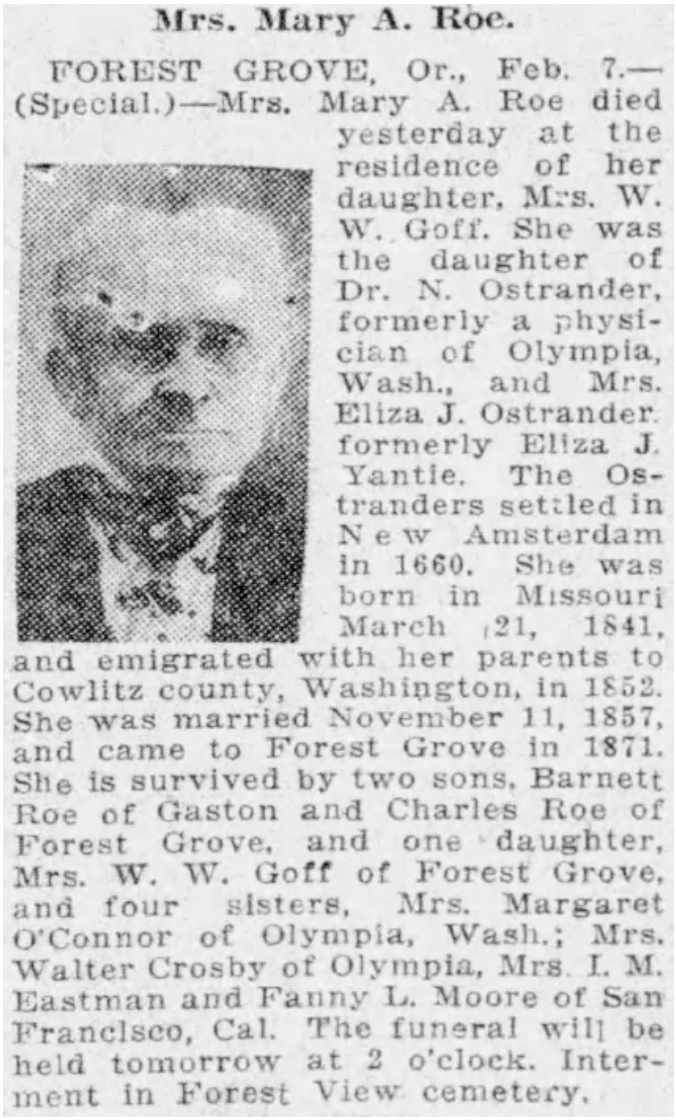
Mrs. Montague Buried at Lebanon.

LEBANON, Or., April 17.—(Special.)—The funeral of Mrs. Priscilla C. Montague, widow of the late Colonel Charles B. Montague, was held in this city today and interment took place in the Masonic Cemetery. Mrs. Montague had been a resident of Lebanon for nearly 30 years, and prior to that time had been a resident of Albany. Mrs. Montague died Thursday at the home of her son, Dr. N. J. Redpath, in Olympia, Wash., where she had been visiting.

[The Sunday Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Sunday, April 18, 1915, p. 10]

ii. Mary Ann Ostrander
b. 21 Mar 1841 Missouri
d. 06 Feb 1924 Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon
buried IOOF Cemetery, Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon

m. 1857
Thomas Roe [pioneer to California 1850]
b. 21 Aug 1827 Cayuga County, New York
d. 01 Aug 1908 Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon
buried Forest Grove Cemetery, Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon



Mrs. Mary A. Roe.

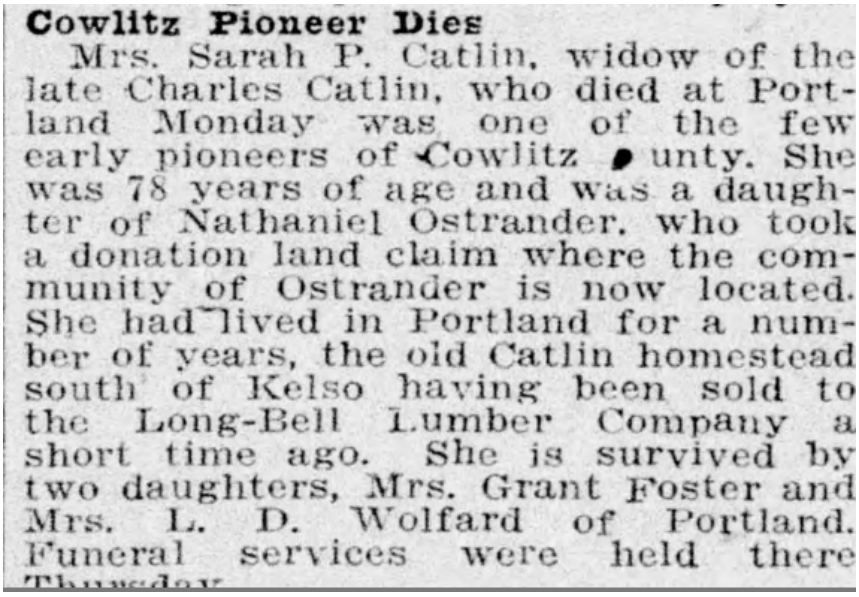
FOREST GROVE, Or., Feb. 7.—(Special.)—Mrs. Mary A. Roe died yesterday at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. W. W. Goff. She was the daughter of Dr. N. Ostrander, formerly a physician of Olympia, Wash., and Mrs. Eliza J. Ostrander, formerly Eliza J. Yantie. The Ostranders settled in New Amsterdam in 1660. She was born in Missouri March 21, 1841, and emigrated with her parents to Cowlitz county, Washington, in 1852. She was married November 11, 1857, and came to Forest Grove in 1871. She is survived by two sons, Barnett Roe of Gaston and Charles Roe of Forest Grove, and one daughter, Mrs. W. W. Goff of Forest Grove, and four sisters, Mrs. Margaret O'Connor of Olympia, Wash.; Mrs. Walter Crosby of Olympia, Mrs. I. M. Eastman and Fanny L. Moore of San Francisco, Cal. The funeral will be held tomorrow at 2 o'clock. Interment in Forest View cemetery.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Friday, February 8, 1924, p. 22]

iii. Susan Charlotte Ostrander
b. 17 Feb 1844
d. 17 Aug 1852 on trail Snake River, Idaho

iv. Sarah Teresa Ostrander
b. 22 Sep 1846 Saline County, Missouri
d. 19 Feb 1923 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried Wilhelm's Portland Memorial Mausoleum, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. 27 Mar 1867 Cowlitz County, Washington
Charles Catlin
b. 14 May 1844 St. Clair County, Illinois
d. 30 Sep 1900 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried Wilhelm's Portland Memorial Mausoleum, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon



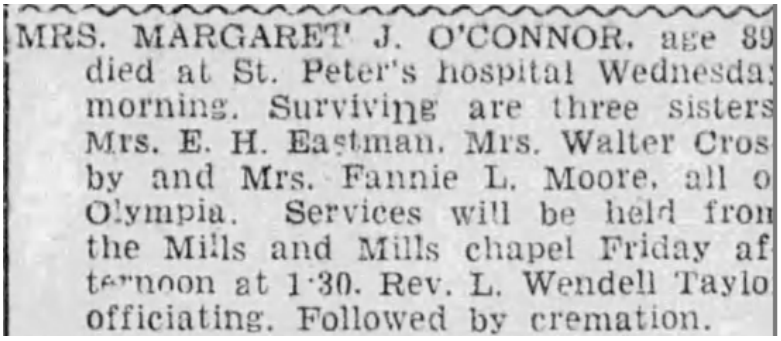
Cowlitz Pioneer Dies

Mrs. Sarah P. Catlin, widow of the late Charles Catlin, who died at Portland Monday was one of the few early pioneers of Cowlitz unty. She was 78 years of age and was a daughter of Nathaniel Ostrander, who took a donation land claim where the community of Ostrander is now located. She had lived in Portland for a number of years, the old Catlin homestead south of Kelso having been sold to the Long-Bell Lumber Company a short time ago. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Grant Foster and Mrs. L. D. Wolfard of Portland. Funeral services were held there

[The Tacoma Daily Ledger, Tacoma, Washington, Friday, February 23, 1923, p. 12]

v. Margaret Jane Ostrander
b. Mar 1849
d. 23 Nov 1938 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington

m. 25 Apr 1875
Charles O'Connor
b.
d.



MRS. MARGARET J. O'CONNOR, age 89 died at St. Peter's hospital Wednesday morning. Surviving are three sisters Mrs. E. H. Eastman, Mrs. Walter Crosby and Mrs. Fannie L. Moore, all o Olympia. Services will be held from the Mills and Mills chapel Friday afternoon at 1:30. Rev. L. Wendell Taylo officiating. Followed by cremation.

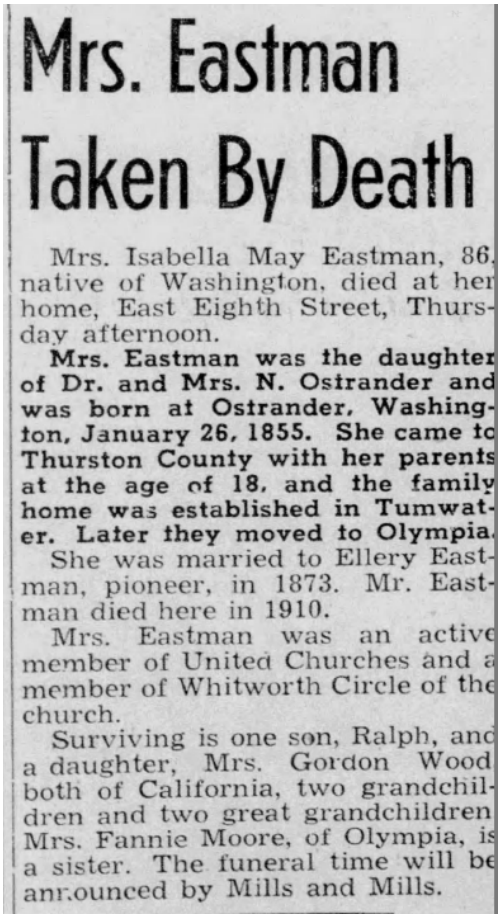
[The Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Friday, November 25, 1938, p. 7]

vi. Maria Evalyn Ostrander
b. 24 Jul 1852 on trail
d. 26 Jun 1888 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington
buried Odd Fellows Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington

m. 1887
William W. Work
b. 03 Mar 1847 Marshall County, Illinois

d. 14 Jun 1922 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington
buried Odd Fellows Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington
m1. Kate Evelyn Gossage 1877
m3. Sarah E. Kohler 1890

vii. Isabella May Ostrander
b. 26 Jan 1855 Cowlitz County, Washington
d. 27 Feb 1941 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington
buried Odd Fellows Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington
m. Ellery Hudson Eastman 1873



Mrs. Eastman Taken By Death

Mrs. Isabella May Eastman, 86, native of Washington, died at her home, East Eighth Street, Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Eastman was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. N. Ostrander and was born at Ostrander, Washington, January 26, 1855. She came to Thurston County with her parents at the age of 18, and the family home was established in Tumwater. Later they moved to Olympia.

She was married to Ellery Eastman, pioneer, in 1873. Mr. Eastman died here in 1910.

Mrs. Eastman was an active member of United Churches and a member of Whitworth Circle of the church.

Surviving is one son, Ralph, and a daughter, Mrs. Gordon Wood both of California, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren Mrs. Fannie Moore, of Olympia, is a sister. The funeral time will be announced by Mills and Mills.

[The Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Friday, February 28, 1941, p. 1]

viii. John Yantis Ostrander
b. 26 Apr 1857 Cowlitz County, Washington
d. 01 Mar 1914 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington
buried Masonic Memorial Park, Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington
m. Fannie F. Crosby 1880

JOHN Y. OSTRANDER DIES AT OLYMPIA

Well Known Alaska Attorney and Pioneer of West Passes.

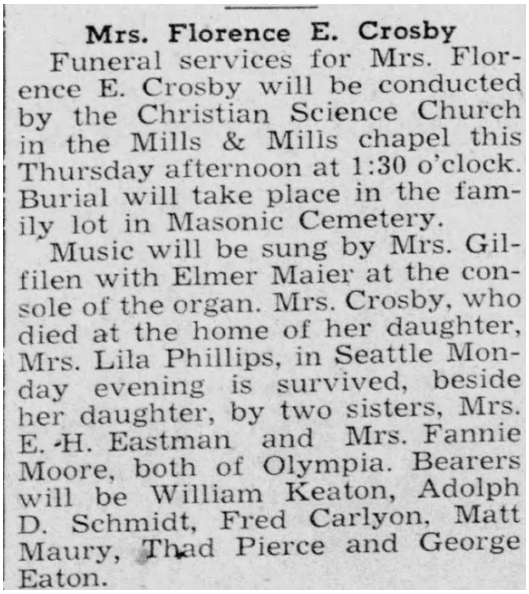
OLYMPIA, March 1.—John Y. Ostrander, an attorney of Alaska, died today at the home of his sister, Mrs. Walter Crosby, of this city. He had suffered for some time past from a cancer of the stomach. Mr. Ostrander was recently mentioned as a possible candidate for federal judge of Alaska.

John Y. Ostrander was born in Cowlitz county, territory of Washington, April 26, 1857. He was a lawyer by profession, practicing first in Dayton, Wash., and later in Seattle. He resided in Cordova and Valdez, Alaska, for the last 11 years. He was former registrar of the United States land office in Olympia, afterwards moving to Seattle. Later he was United States commissioner at Juneau.

April 4, 1880, he married Fanny F. Crosby in Olympia, who survives him. He is also survived by seven sisters: Mrs. M. O'Conor and Mrs. Walter Crosby, of Olympia; Mrs. A. Rose, of Forest Grove, Ore.; Mrs. P. C. Montague, Lebanon, Ore.; Mrs. S. S. Catlin, of Portland; Mrs. I. M. Eastman, of Seattle, and Fanny L. Moore, of Alameda, Cal. He was a son of Dr. N. Ostrander, who practiced in Olympia in 1871. The funeral, Tuesday, which in a measure will be private, is to be held from the home of Walter Crosby. Ostrander, in Cowlitz county, is named after the family.

[The Tacoma Daily Ledger, Tacoma, Washington, Monday, March 2, 1914, p. 1]

ix. Florance E. Ostrander
b. 23 Jul 1859 Cowlitz County, Washington
d. 16 Dec 1940 Seattle, King County, Washington
buried Masonic Memoria Park, Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington
m. Walter Crosby



Mrs. Florence E. Crosby

Funeral services for Mrs. Florence E. Crosby will be conducted by the Christian Science Church in the Mills & Mills chapel this Thursday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. Burial will take place in the family lot in Masonic Cemetery.

Music will be sung by Mrs. Gilfilen with Elmer Maier at the console of the organ. Mrs. Crosby, who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lila Phillips, in Seattle Monday evening is survived, beside her daughter, by two sisters, Mrs. E. H. Eastman and Mrs. Fannie Moore, both of Olympia. Bearers will be William Keaton, Adolph D. Schmidt, Fred Carlyon, Matt Maury, Thad Pierce and George Eaton.

[The Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Wednesday, December 18, 1940, p.3]

x. Fannie Lee Ostrander
b. 06 Apr 1862 Cowlitz County, Washington
d. 07 Jan 1951 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington
buried Odd Fellows Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington
m. Charles Milton Moore 1886

Fannie Lee Moore

Fannie Lee Moore, a resident of Olympia for more than seventy years, died in an Olympia hospital Sunday. Her parents were Doctor and Mrs. Nathaniel Ostrander and she was the youngest of ten children. She was born on April 6, 1862, in what is now Ostrander, Washington. There her family had taken up a donation claim in territorial days. In 1872 the family moved to Tumwater, where Dr. Ostrander operated a drug store while practicing medicine. Five years later the family moved to Olympia. Mrs. Moore played the piano and organ for many church and social functions in the early days of Olympia. She was a member of the Daughters of Pioneers and the Thurston County Pioneer Asociation. Surviving are three nieces, Lila Preston, Seattle, and Mrs. Grant Foster and Mrs. Lake Wolford, Portland; a grand niece, Mrs. Catherine Weller, and a grand nephew, Dr. Nathaniel Redpath, Olympia. The funeral service will be held in Mills and Mills chapel this Wednesday morning, starting at eleven o'clock. The Reverend Clarence B. Seeley will officiate. Burial will take place in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

[The Olympian, Olympia, Washington, Monday, January 8, 1951, p. 5]

xi. Minnie Augusta Ostrander
b. 16 Jun 1864 Cowlitz County, Washington
d. 30 Nov 1868 Cowlitz County, Washington
buried Catlin Cemetery, Longview, Cowlitz County, Washington

Ostranders Arrived Three Generations Strong in 1852, One a Babe, One 80 Years Old

When the Ostranders came to this territory in 1852, they not only came lock, stock and barrel but they came three generations strong. The youngest was a babe in arms, the oldest was Abel Ostrander, 80 summers old, who was the most determined member of the party. Abel's son Nathaniel was the promoter of the idea and leader of the train as well. As he had drunk from the western rivers, according to the old saying he must return to drink again.

The curse of the Missouri country was malaria and this the young doctor had resolved to avoid. The same disease had been prevalent in California, too, so he had set his mind on the territory north of the Columbia and there he planned to take his family.

He had done well in the gold rush but not in the mines. Doctors were scarcer than nuggets and he had plied his profession, profiting by the wealth of those who panned the gold.

Ambition Burns

Nathaniel Ostrander had been an enterprising grocery clerk in the local store in Sweet Springs, Mo., when he became obsessed by an idea. He would be a physician.

Mrs. Ostrander was opposed to the idea. She felt she could not take the whole care of the family of three children. But her husband was undaunted and determined to study medicine.

While he perused his studies at a St. Louis medical school, his wife learned to card, spin and weave wool for the children's clothes and to practice all the economies of the thrifty. Her brother, Dr. Lapsley Yantis, helped her financially and in other ways and the time of preparation was only two years, or perhaps less at that time.

As soon as he had received his degree, he left to try his fortunes in the west. His aged father was pleased with the plan and the family decided to migrate en masse.

On the Trail

The two doctors had plenty of chances to try their skill on the way west. Measles, then cholera, struck the train. Frank Yantis' wife died and Nathaniel and Eliza's 8 year old Susan. Soon afterward another baby was born and immediately contracted the measles. She was so ill that when she was several weeks old she still weighed three or four pounds. The Indians who followed the train offered to buy the child as white children were a novelty to them. They thought the mother should be glad to get some old blankets and a few pennies for the poor weak little baby who wasn't worth much.

Mrs. Lapsley Ostrander, who was not of the stuff of which pioneers are made, wanted to return on the trail and refused to stay even after the party reached Portland, then a hamlet. Her husband in the short time he was there organized the first Presbyterian church.

That family returned to Missouri and the mother had the doubtful pleasure of seeing her sons turn bushwhackers, as the only means at hand of helping the South.

On to the Wilderness!

Dr. Ostrander would have been glad to settle in Portland, thinking it offered a splendid chance for a physician. But the 80 year old Abel would have none of it. He had come all that distance to take up a claim and take one he would. So the Ostranders moved up the Cowlitz where they took up a claim in heavy, wild animal infested timber. Here Mrs. Ostrander put up with all inconveniences, as well as a crabbed old man, for many years.

On this claim, years afterward, someone laid out the town of Ostrander, named for the original owner. This was eminently fitting as no one in the early days was more widely known or more highly honored. The founder was probably Edward Collins, the lumberman, thinks Mrs. Fanny Ostrander Moore, who tells the story. Mr. Collins became very wealthy and at his death endowed the College of Puget Sound, and left many other charitable legacies.

The Ostranders had moved to a small farm between Monticello and Freeport. The doctor's practice extended up and down the Cowlitz river for miles. Of all the things which happened to the large happy family, Mrs. Moore thinks the regular passing of the typically western stage coach was the most exciting. All the youngsters wanted to grow up and become drivers of such a splendid outfit.

Quick, Doctor

Important calls seemed always to come on very dark, rainy nights. One such night an Indian came late to the Ostrander home. A woman down the Cowlitz was very ill, only one of a scheduled pair of twins had arrived, and the husband had dispatched the Indian canoe man for the doctor.

The conscientious physician hurriedly dressed and boarded the canoe, while the Indian took up the paddle and drove fiercely ahead. After some miles they landed and the Indian indicated two saddled horses. They were to proceed on horseback. After some miles on horseback they went on foot over a "tote" path to the cabin.

Yes, you guess[illegible]he baby was not a twin. [illegible]d child were sleeping [illegible]. And soon the doctor was, too. He testi- informed the fussy father that he could do his own worrying as he,

the doctor, was going to bed.

In Olympia

Dr. Ostrander moved to Olympia in 1877 and there he practiced medicine until his death in 1902.

He was a fine looking man with white muttonchop whiskers, and strongly resembled the busts of Gladstone. Few men have so gallantly served their day and generation.

They were a long lived strain, these Ostranders, three generations reaching back for more than 150 years. In 1776 Mrs. Moore's grandfather, Abel, was born. In 1818 her father, Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander was born, the youngest of a large family. Mrs. Moore is the 11th child of the doctor and is now well up in years. Abel Ostrander was dead before Fanny was born but the word of mouth stories in which the doctor could tell his children, "I've heard my father say," covered a fair share of our nation's history.

In his practice among the Indians the doctor had many surprising experiences, but was never more surprised than on one occassion when he was called to administer to a squaw down on the beach. She had an injured knee and had sent for him. The medical man found the patient lying in a bunk, her badly swollen knee wrapped in sea kelp. This, admitted the doctor, was a good enough poultice but the injured member did not seem to respond to treatment.

He unwound the kelp and just at that instant an old buck, who had been lying unnoticed in a bunk in a darker corner of the dark room, sat up and began to berate the doctor in jargon, Indian talk and bad English. He sounded so angry that the doctor did not know but that a bullet might follow the bad language. However, he kept steadily on at his work, the buck subsided and the knee eventually healed.

[Strange But True Northwest History by Richard and Floss Loutzenhiser
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