James Madison Yantis

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

James Madison Yantis
b. 12 Oct 1809 Garrard County, Kentucky
d. 10 Jul 1879 Oakville, Linn County, Oregon
buried Oakville Cemetery, Oakville, Linn County, Oregon
note: birth given by some researchers 08 Jun 1810 but DLC says 1809 and interview with granddaughters and obituary say 12 Oct 1809

m. 28 Jan 1830
Sarah Ann Hamilton
b. 05 Dec 1811 Lincoln County, Kentucky
d. 12 Jul 1869 Linn County, Oregon
buried Oakville Cemetery, Oakville, Linn County, Oregon
d/o William Hamilton and Amelia Owsley

1850: Saline County, Missouri, November 8, 1850, James M. Yantis, 41, farmer, KY; Sarah A., 38, KY; John H., 19, MO; Robert A., 16, MO; Priscilla, 12, MO; Permelia A., 11, MO; Eliza J., 10, MO; Mary, 6, MO; Thomas L., 4, MO; James, 2, MO; William Hamilton, 65, KY

DLC: #4270 Linn County; James M. Yantis born 1809 Garrard County, Kentucky; arrived Oregon Oct 1852; settled claim 29 Jan 1853; m'd Sarah Ann 28 Jan 1830 Lincoln County, Kentucky. Affidavit: John L. Yantis, James Jenkins, Sidney A. Smith, Jonathan H. Brattain, James A. Hanna

1860: Linn County, Oregon, June 14, 1860; James Yantis, 50, farmer, $2480 $1093, KY; Sarah, 48, KY; Robert, 24, serving, $0 $500, MO; Ann, 18, MO; Mary, 15, MO; Thomas, 13, MO; James, 11, MO; William, 9, MO; Bushrod Wilson, 35, carpenter, ME; Priscilla, 22, MO; Lafayette, 3, OR; Bell, 1, OR; William Hamilton, 44, day laborer, KY

IN MEMORIAM.

Died in this city, July 10th, 1879, James M. Yantis, aged 69 years.

Deceased was born in Garrett, county, Kentucky, on the 12th day of October, 1809, where he resided until manhood. On the 20th day of January, 1830, he was married to Sarah A. Hamilton, who preceded him to the spirit land just ten years. Shortly after his mrrriage he removed to the state of Missouri and resided there until in the spring of 1852 when he removed to Oregon and located on the farm owned by him at the time of his death, about seven miles east of this city, in Linn county. He came to Corvallis on the 3d inst., in good health, and on the evening of the 4th was feeling indisposed, but attached no importance to it; next morning, feeling no better, a physician was called and ascertained that he was suffering from pneumonia, but not considered dangerous. Early Thnrsday morning, his symptoms suddenly becoming worse, physicians and friends were hastily summoned, but to no purpose; at 8:30 A. M., he quietly and peacefully breathed his last. He was the father of nine children who lived to maturity, and seven of whom survive him—the youngest being 28 years of age.

Being one of the early settlers of this section, he had a large circle of acquintances, and not an enemy. All who knew him respected him, and those who knew him best, loved him most. Can more be said? For more than fifty years he had been a professing and consistent Christian, and none who knew his daily life can doubt his happiness. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his children.

Children of James Yantis and Sarah Hamilton:
1. John Hamilton Yantis
b. 11 May 1831 Lincoln County, Kentucky
d. Sep 1909 Linn County, Oregon
burial location unknown

2. Robert Franklin Yantis
b. 07 Jun 1835 Missouri
d. 10 Apr 1876 Linn County, Oregon
buried Oakville Cemetery, Oakville, Linn County, Oregon

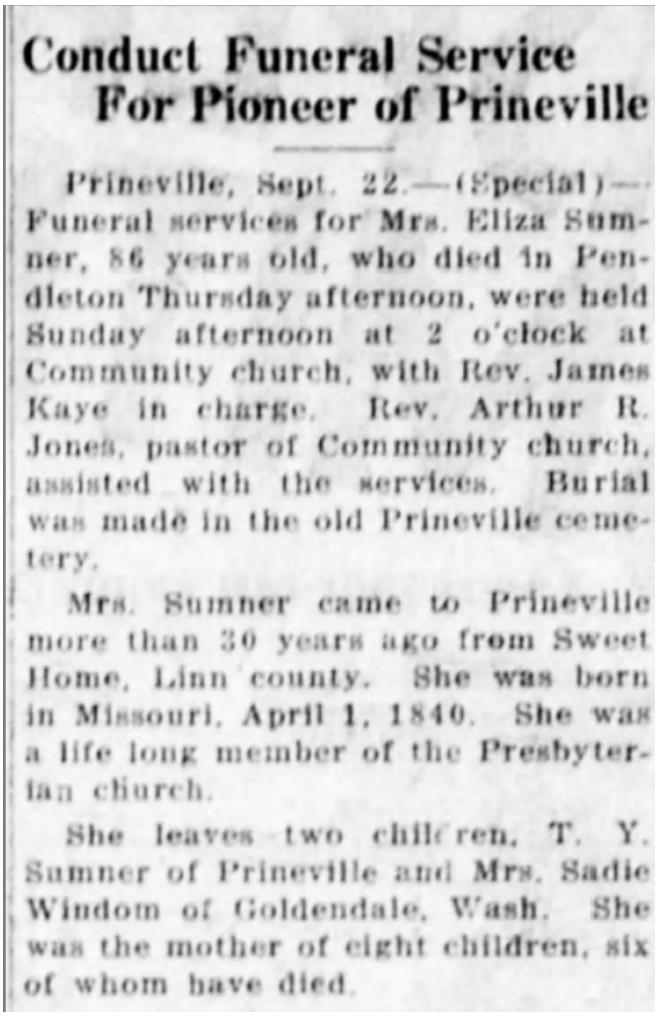
m. 02 Jul 1868 Linn County, Oregon
Elizabeth Melissa McBride
b. 1847 Monroe County, Iowa
d. 10 Nov 1899 Albany, Linn County, Oregon
buried Oakville Cemetery, Oakville, Linn County, Oregon

3. Priscilla Owsley Yantis
b. 04 Jan 1838 Saline County, Missouri
d. 09 Dec 1911 New York County, New York
buried Crystal Lake Cemetery, Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

m. 1856 Linn County, Oregon
Bushrod Washington Wilson
b. 18 Jul 1824 Washington County, Maine
d. 1900 Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon
buried Crystal Lake Cemetery, Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

4. Eliza Jane Yantis
b. 01 Apr 1840 Saline County, Missouri
d. 15 Sep 1926 Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon
buried Juniper Haven Cemetery, Prineville, Crook County, Oregon

m. 01 Apr 1858 Linn County, Oregon
John C. Sumner
b. 25 Sep 1833 Indiana
d. 16 Jul 1901 Prineville, Crook County, Oregon
buried Juniper Haven Cemetery, Prineville, Crook County, Oregon



Conduct Funeral Service For Pioneer of Prineville

Prineville, Sept. 22.—(Special)—Funeral services for Mrs. Eliza Sumner, 86 years old, who died in Pendleton Thursday afternoon, were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Community church, with Rev. James Kaye in charge. Rev. Arthur R. Jones, pastor of Community church, assisted with the services. Burial was made in the old Prineville cemetery.

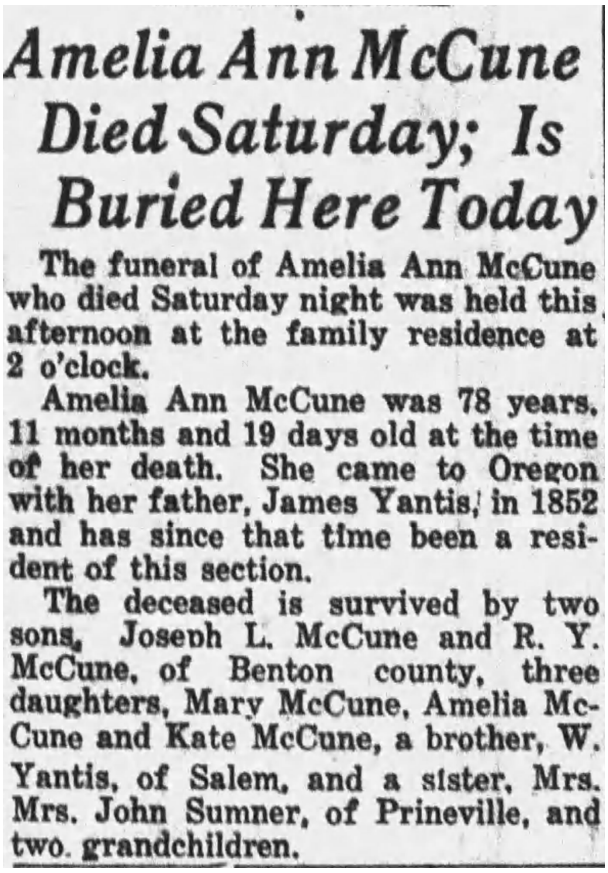
Mrs. Sumner came to Prineville more than 30 years ago from Sweet Home, Linn county. She was born in Missouri, April 1, 1840. She was a life long member of the Presbyterian church.

She leaves two children, T. Y. Sumner of Prineville and Mrs. Sadie Windom of Goldendale, Wash. She was the mother of eight children, six of whom have died.

[The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon, Wednesday, September 22, 1927, p. 7]

5. Amelia Ann Yantis
b. 02 Jun 1842 Saline County, Missouri
D. 21 May 1921 Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon
buried Crystal Lake Cemetery, Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

m. 1862 Linn County, Oregon
Robert Young McCune
b. 1827
d. 28 Nov 1875 Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon
buried Crystal Lake Cemetery, Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon



Amelia Ann McCune Died Saturday; Is Buried Here Today

The funeral of Amelia Ann McCune who died Saturday night was held this afternoon at the family residence at 2 o'clock.

Amelia Ann McCune was 78 years, 11 months and 19 days old at the time of her death. She came to Oregon with her father, James Yantis, in 1852 and has since that time been a resident of this section.

The deceased is survived by two sons, Joseph L. McCune and R. Y. McCune, of Benton county, three daughters, Mary McCune, Amelia McCune and Kate McCune, a brother, W. Yantis, of Salem, and a sister, Mrs. Mrs. John Sumner, of Prineville, and two grandchildren.

[Albany Democrat-Herald, Albany, Oregon, Monday, May 23, 1921, p. 1]

6. Mary Katherine Yantis
b. 23 May 1845 Indiana
d. 18 Jan 1907 Washington
buried McHargus Pioneer Cemetery, Brownsville, Linn County, Oregon
note; Headstone give birth as 28 May 1844

m.
James RamseyTempleton
b. 6 Aug 1832 Indiana
d. 13 Apr 1899 Brownsville, Linn County, Oregon
buried McHargus Pioneer Cemetery, Brownsville, Linn County, Oregon

PIONEER DIES AT LEON, WASH.



Mrs. Mary Y. Templeton.

BROWNSVILLE, Or., Jan. 22.—(Special.)—At the home of her daughter, Mrs. Setters, in Leon, Wash., Mrs. Mary Y. Templeton, widow of the late James R. Templeton, died at 9 A. M. Friday, January 18, at the age of 62 years and 7 months.

She was born in Missouri, May 23, 1844, crossed the plains with her parents in 1852, and settled near Shedds, Linn County, Or. She joined the Presbyterian Church in 1869. She was united in marriage to James R. Templeton May 28, 1873. She lived in the vicinity of Brownsville, Or., from 1873 to 1905, when she moved with her daughter to Washington. She suffered from rheumatism for over 30 years, the last 15 being compelled to use crutches, and for nine years being unable to move about. She leaves six grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, two daughters (Mrs. Kirk, of Halsey, Or., and Mrs. Setters, of Leon, Wash.), and three step-children (Mrs. Porter, of Brownsville, Or.; Dr. C. R. Templeton, of Portland, and W. H. Templeton, of Washington). The remains were interred beside her husband and son near Brownsville, Or.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Wednesday, January 23, 1907, p. 5]

7. Thomas L. Yantis
b. 03 Oct 1845 Saline County, Missouri
d. 19 Sep 1868 Linn County, Oregon
buried Oakville Cemetery, Oakville, Linn County, Oregon

8. James A. Yantis
b. 10 Dec 1848 Saline County, Missouri
d. 07 Apr 1882 Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington
buried Oakville Cemetery, Oakville, Linn County, Oregon

m. 1868 Linn County, Oregon [divorced]
Georgiana Taylor
b. 11 Mar 1851 Vermont
d. 23 Dec 1906 Norfolk County, Massachusetts
buried Lowell Cemetery, Lowell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

IN MEMORIAM.

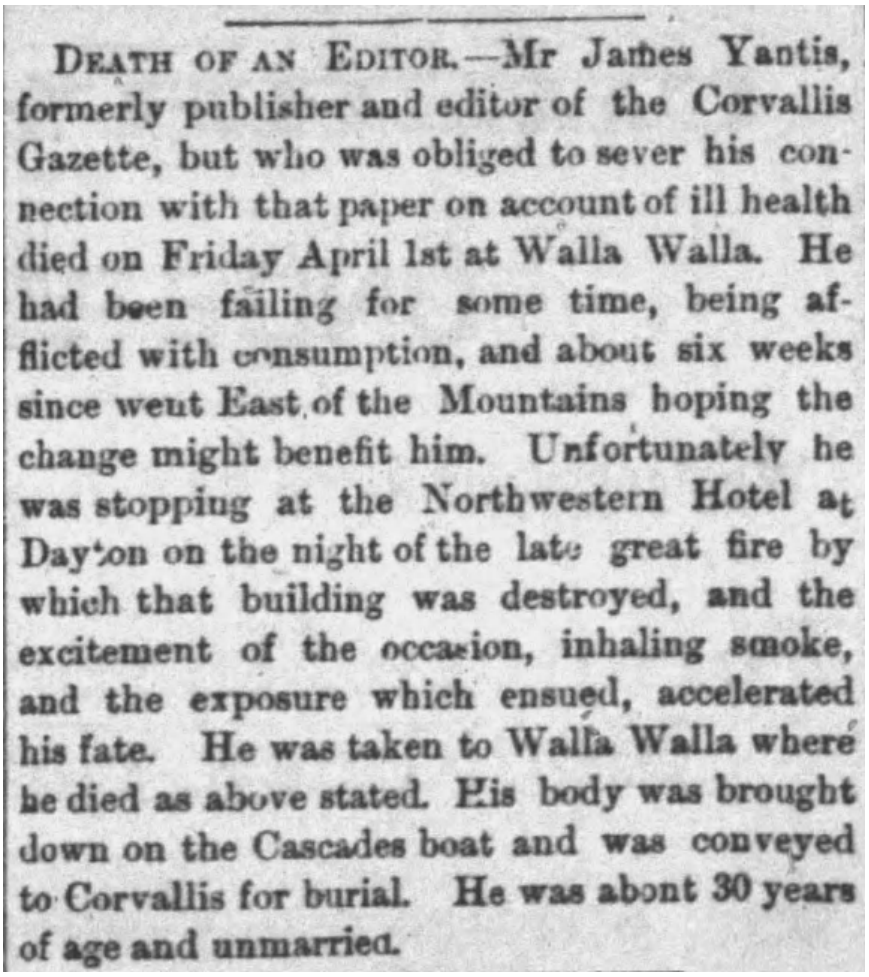
On last Saturday we received a dispatch from Dayton, W. T., announcing the sudden death of James A. Yantis on the 7th inst., at eight o'clock at night at Walla Walla.

Mr. James A. Yantis was born Dec. 10, 184[illegible], in the state of Missouri, and emigrated from thence with his father's family in the pioneer days of 1851 to Oregon where they settled in Linn county, and where deceased was raised to manhood on his father,s farm. His education from boyhood to riper years was almost exclusively under the supervision of Rev. S. G. Irvin of Linn county, by first attending the distrit school in early days where Mr. Irvin taught and afterwards at Albany collegiate institute where he studied the languages and finished his education while Mr. Irvin had charge of that instution. After retiring from school he taught one of the district schools in this place for some time. He soon after gave up teaching and entered the county clerk's office in this county upon the duties of deputy clerk and continued in that position for several years during which time he studied law and was admitted to the bar at the December term of the supreme court for 1874.

His long and favorable connection with the GAZETTE during Mr. Carter's lifetime and afterwards as part owner with us is all familiar with our readers. Our intimate acquaintance with deceased began during the time he was reading law; since which time our business and social relations with him have been almost of daily occurrence. We have always found him to be a true gentleman, a kind friend and above all one of the noblest works of God, an honest man. He was possessed of those finer feelings of human nature which always actuated him to use his utmost endeavors to please and contribute all in his power to the happiness of those around him. After journeying to Dayton, W. T., in hopes of regaining his health, for a time he seemed to improve and while there he took part in the trial of some important criminal causes. A fire caught at the hotel in which he was sleeping at Dayton and destroyed it, filling his room with smoke from whence he was carried by friends.

The inhaling of smoke into the lungs at the above time no doubt hastened his departure. At the time of his death he had started home; arriving at Walla Walla he was met by W. J. Johnson of Lewiston, formerly of this place, where deceased took suddenly worse and after his death Mr. Johnson kindly accompanied his remains to this place where it was turned over to his relatives and friends. The funeral took place last Wednesday under the supervision of the Masonic fraternity of which deceased had long been a consistent member. Accompanied by a large procession his remains were taken across the river to the family burying ground and there deposited beside his father and mother who departed before him. He leaves many friends and relatives to mourn his loss.

[Corvallis Gazette, Corvallis, Oregon, Friday, April 14, 1882, p. 2]



DEATH OF AN EDITOR.—Mr James Yantis, formerly publisher and editor of the Corvallis Gazette, but who was obliged to sever his connection with that paper on account of ill health died on Friday April 1st at Walla Walla. He had been failing for some time, being afflicted with consumption, and about six weeks since went East of the Mountains hoping the change might benefit him. Unfortunately he was stopping at the Northwestern Hotel at Dayton on the night of the late great fire by which that building was destroyed, and the excitement of the occasion, inhaling smoke, and the exposure which ensued, accelerated his fate. He was taken to Walla Walla where he died as above stated. His body was brought down on the Cascades boat and was conveyed to Corvallis for burial. He was abont 30 years of age and unmarried.

[The Twice-A-Week Guard, Eugene, Oregon, Saturday, April 15, 1882, p. 5]

9. William Worthington Yantis
b. 06 Jul 1851 Saline County, Missouri
d. 07 Aug 1929 Salem, Marion County, Oregon
buried Belcrest Memorial Park, Salem, Marion County, Oregon

m. 10 Nov 1882 Linn County, Oregon
Mary Irvine McIlree
b. 26 Jun 1859 Oregon
d. 08 Oct 1939 Salem, Marion County, Oregon
buried Belcrest Memorial Park, Salem, Marion County, Oregon
m2. 1879 Samuel Lansdon Pillsbury

WILLIAM YANTIS PIONEER, PASSES

William W. Yantis, 78, Willamette valley pioneer, died Saturday morning, in his home at 297 South 18th street, after an illness of nearly eight months. His wife, Mary, and four children, Mrs. E. P. Donaldson of Portland, Laura E. Yantis of Grants Pass, Don W. Yantis of The Dalles, and J. C. Yantis of Salem, and two grandchildren survive him.

William Yantis was born in Missouri. He crossed the plains to Oregon when he was less than a year old and for a number of years he made his home in Linn county. He came to Salem 33 years ago and was a salesman for the Oregon nursery company. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and of the Woodmen of the World.

Arrangements have not been made for the funeral.

[The Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon, Saturday, August 17, 1929, p. 8]

Pioneer Families of Linn County, Oregon

Submitted by LGS Member Richard R. "Dick" Milligan

WPA Interviews 1935-1939 by Leslie L. Haskins, Et Al,
Volume 3, published by Linn Benton Genealogical Services

Yantis and McCune Families

Interview with Amelia Jane McCune and her sister, Kate Bell McCune, at their farm home situated about two and one-half miles southeast of Oakville, Linn County, Oregon. (March 3, 1939)

This farm on which we live is commonly known as the old Yantis Donation Land Claim. It came down to us from our mother who was Amelia Ann Yantis McCune. Since we live on the old Yantis claim, we will tell first of the Yantis family and later take up the McCune (fathers side).

Our grandfather's name was James Madison Yantis. He was born October 12, 1809 and died July 10, 1879. Grandmother's name was Sarah Ann Hamilton Yantis, who was born December 5th, 1811 and died July 12, 1869. They were married January 28, 1830, and came to Oregon from Missouri is 1852.

This is a picture of our grandfather, James Madison Yantis, (indicating an oil portrait on the wall, framed, about 16 x 20 inches in size). It was painted in Kentucky on grandfather's nineteenth birthday. Who the artist was we do not know, but we know that it is at least a fairly good portrait because so many of the family bear a nose so very much like that shown in the picture. You can see how worn the picture is, and how it is chafed in lines across the canvas. That is because, to bring it to Oregon, it was rolled on a round stick and besides frequently getting wet in crossing streams, it was cracked and chafed by the jolting of the rough way.

Grandfather was born in Kentucky. From Kentucky, the family moved west at a very early date, traversing the old "Kentucky Trace". He finally settled on a farm near Sweet Springs, Missouri. Our grandmother Yantis was born in Virginia. Grandfather, James Monroe Yantis, and grandmother, Sarah Ann Hamilton Yantis, were the parents of eight children, all born in Missouri before the family moved to Oregon. (In another statement nine children are listed, but the names of only eight were given.) Their names are as follows:

John H. Yantis-b. May 11, 1831, d. September 1909.

Robert F. Yantis-b. June 7, 1835, d. April 10, 1876.

Priscilla Ousley Yantis-b. January 4, 1838, d. Dec. 1911.

Eliza Jane Yantis-b. April 1, 1840, died at a comparatively recent date.

Amelia Ann Yantis (our mother)-b. at Sweet Springs, MO June 2, 1842, d. May 21, 1921.

Thomas L. Yantis-b. October 3, 1846, d. April 2, 1882.

James A. Yantis-b. December 10, 1848, d. April 2, 1882.

William W. Yantis-b. July 6, 1851, d. _____(?).

I have often wondered what madness or craze could have possessed the early pioneers who came to Oregon! For instance, what could have caused a man like my

grandfather, a gentleman of the south as it was understood in those days - a man who had never even been used to building his own fires in the morning and who always had a servant to saddle and bring up his horse when he wished to ride - to load his nine children into an ox wagon, and leaving a comfortable home behind him, start out clear across the plains for Oregon. There seems no reason back of such an act. However, there was a great deal of trouble in Missouri over the slave question at about that time and that may have had some influence in causing the change. My grandfather, in spite of the fact that he held some slaves at the time, was violently opposed to the whole slave system and wished to get away from it. My grandparents, however, held very few servants. I think only a maid and a boy who had been given to my mother on her marriage. These servants were given their freedom and left behind in the care of family friends.

The family bible from which I am getting the birth and death dates was brought by Grandfather Yantis on the trip across the plains. Often in crossing streams it became soaked and wet when the wagon was flooded. You can see how wrinkled the pages are from those wettings. Our mother was ten years of age at the time and when the supplies were soaked, it was part of her task to spread them out and dry them beside the campfire. When the bible was wet, she would sit in her little chair beside the fire and turn the pages one by one until they were dry. We still have her little chair in which she sat and performed that task.

The youngest member of the emigrant train was William W. Yantis, our uncle. He was a little red-headed baby only about one year old. The Indians were especially attracted to that redhead and paid a great deal of attention to him and all of the women and children of the train were in a constant worry for fear the Indians would steal him. They did make offers to buy him, and showed in many ways that they were anxious to have him.

Their was some dissention on the trip to Oregon, among the various members of the train. My grandfather was a very devout Presbyterian and did not wish to travel on Sunday. Other members of the train and of the family were less strict and wished to push on every day at top speed. This finally resulted in active disagreement. those who wished to travel on Sunday accused those who preferred to rest of not being sincere, saying "you only want to stop to do your washing and cooking at leisure". The result, at last, was that the train split into two parts, one part, including grandfather and his family, lingering behind and the other part pushing on. The first section pushed on to Olympia. The split took place at Fort Hall.

The cholera was a plague, clinging to the flanks of the emigrant train that year. One of our aunts died of cholera in grandfather's train. (Evidently this is the extra child who made up the nine children since no death is recorded for 1851 in the family list.) Of the party who pushed on ahead after they split there was one death from cholera, that of Ann Hayes, wife of Franklin Yantis. The Hayes pushed on, *[continued on page 87]*

[continued from page 86] not waiting for Sunday.

I might say at this time that all of grandfather's children were not with him on the trip to Oregon. John H. Yantis had gone on ahead to the California gold mines in 1849. The children with the train ranged in age from under two years to sixteen years.

Grandfather, James Yantis, was a member of the "Old School" Presbyterian Church. He was a member of a church which was organized at an early day in the Harvey Hogue claim house. This claim house was built by Hogue on his claim so as to hold the land, but he really lived with his people on another claim nearby. Since his house was not used for living purposes, he loaned it to the neighborhood both for school and church purposes. I do not know who organized this church but think that it might have been our great uncle, J. L. Yantis, who was a preacher of the "Old School" Presbyterian Church in Portland and preached there for a number of years although he made his home here in Linn County. There are not many preachers now who would care to ride horseback from Linn County to Portland to fill their preaching appointments, but that is what our great-uncle did. The church records, both of the Portland and the Linn County churches, seem to have been entirely lost. Another member of the church in the Hogue house was Nicholas Sprenger whose claim was next to that of Rev. T. S. Kendall on the Calapooia. Thomas Sprenger, a son of Nicholas, still lives at Shedd though now nearly ninety-five years of age. (Note - This is the first that the field worker has ever learned of the Presbyterian Church in the Hogue Claim House. If possible, additional information will be obtained. L. Haskin, Field Worker.)

All of our uncles young enough to attend school went to that old Hogue school. Another pupil of whom we have heard our parents speak was George Helm. I do not know just where the Helm claim was located, but think that it was somewhere near the Riverside Community, or at least east of the present Orleans Chapel. At any rate, George Helm came to the Hogue school, walking eight miles every morning and night for the sake of an education. (Note - There was a Helm Donation Land Claim east of Orleans Chapel in Sec. 34, Tp. 11 south, Range 4 west. This may not be the same Helm family but it was approximately eight miles from the Hogue claim which was in Section 36, Township 12 S. Range 4 West. - Leslie L. Haskin, Field Worker.) This same George Helm was later married to a daughter of the Averys who were the first settlers on the site of Corvallis.

When our people first settled here, there was no fruit in the neighborhood save wild berries, such as strawberries, wild currants, service-berries and crabapples. Our people used to make jelly from wild crabapples and the strawberries, which were very plentiful, they gathered and dried for winter use. There was also the wild blackberries which every native Oregonian considers a fruit of outstanding quality. Later we got grafted trees from the Luelling Nurseries. We also got a kind of plum called the "Peterson" and which I believe was originated and named by the Peterson family here in Linn County who settled on Washington Butte, later renamed "Peterson Butte".

Dr. Maley who settled near Oakville was the first here to raise fruit. He had an orchard that was coming into bearing as early as 1852.

Our people never used the Indian roots as we have heard that many pioneer families did. They gathered lambs quarter for greens, and dandelions.

The camas was very abundant here but I do not think our people ever made any use of it. The only time that I ever remember tasting camas was when I was a small child. We had some Indians working for us, grubbing trees. In their work they dug up some camas roots which they gave to us. We, my sister, and I, roasted them at a fire and ate them.

The early day neighbors in this vicinity were - Jesse Washington Pugh, whose claim was west of grandfather's, James Coon and family on Muddy Creek, the McBrides, McCoys. Achesons, Stocktons, Hamiltons, and Millers.

That I believe, pretty well finishes up this neighborhood history and the Yantis family. Now I will give what I can on the McCune, or father's side of the family.

Our great-grandfather (probably on the maternal side. Some discrepancy here) was born at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania. Later he moved away to Beaver Creek, just where located we cannot remember. On the farm at Beaver Creek, an oil well was sunk and struck in abundance, so the family was by no means unsuccessful in their move, yet great-grandfather often bemoaned the fact that he had not had foresight enough to realize that a great town - Pittsburg - would spring up on the site of Fort Pitt and the confluence of the two rivers there.

Grandfather, John R. McCune, was born Jan. 12, 1795. Grandmother, Mary McKee McCune, was born Jan. 4, 1791. Both were born in Ireland in County Down. They were married in Pennsylvania after coming to America.

Our father, Robert Young McCune, was born March 12, 1828. He died November 30, 1875.

Father came to Oregon in 1853. He was accompanied on the immigration by a brother, Joseph McCune. Father first settled in the Diamond Hill region of southern Linn County. Later father sold his claim and moved to the Corvallis region (in Linn County) and built a sawmill on Colorado Lake, near the Willamette, about three miles east of Corvallis on the Linn County side.

Father and Mother were married in January, 1862. That was the year which is generally known as "The year of the big flood". Father and Mother were married and moved out to the sawmill. Almost at once the flood began. Mother was in the house and fearfully afraid of water. The flood came up around the house and mother had to go up into the second story. That was where father found her when he came to rescue her. Father was a strong man and a skillful boatman. He took mother out of the upper story window and carried her in his boat, across the Willamette, and for a distance of three or four miles through the flood, finally landing with her on the steps of the old Methodist Church in the town of Corvallis. The water was so high that all of Corvallis was flooded. (The Methodist Church at this date was probably situated at the corner *[continued on page 88]*

[continued from page 87] of Second and VanBuren Streets). That was a very devastating flood. The little town of "Orleans" which was situated on the Linn County side of the river opposite Corvallis was completely washed away. At that time, it consisted of a number of residences and business houses, including a brewery.

Although father's sawmill on Colorado Lake was not destroyed by that flood, he never returned to run it there. Instead he moved his mill to Corvallis and relocated it near the present Mary's River Bridge. Not long after that the mill was destroyed by fire.

Father and Mother's family consisted of the following children:

James Yantis McCune, b. Nov. 25, 1862, d. May 4, 1912.

Joseph Lapsley McCune, b. June 14, 1864, (Lapsley was great-grandmother's maiden name) still living.

Mary McCune, b. Oct 5, 1866, still living.

Sarah Lapsley McCune, b. May 5, 1869, d. Nov. 6, 1874.

Amelia Jane McCune, b. May 1, 1871, (Living on Yantis farm).

Kate Bell McCune, b. July 11, 1873, (Living on Yantis farm).

Robert Young McCune, b. April 15, 1876, (Living).

(The two youngest daughters above were the informants

for this interview. Kate Bell was especially helpful.)

Possibly you may be interested in a little more local history, although not connected with our immediate family. You know where the cemetery is, and the little butte called "Bunker Hill" just east of the old Boston Mill near Shedd. Among the members of the Savage family who settled on that butte were two girls, Prudance and Sarah Savage, daughters of Americus Savage. These two girls, helped their father with his stock on the trip across the plains. In later years, they often claimed that they walked "every step of the way from Bunker Hill, Massachusetts, to Oregon. They, therefore, named their new home "Bunker Hill". The mill nearby was called "Boston Mill". The fight of which you tell, between Americus Savage and Robert Elder, and called "The battle of Bunker Hill" was not the cause of the hill being so named, for it had been named by the Savage family long before that. (For an account of this fight, see this worker's survey of "Bunker Hill or Savage Butte Cemetery", previously sent in.)

The two Savage girls who walked from Bunker Hill, Mass. to Oregon were Prudance Savage, later Mrs. John Morgan of Shedd, and Sarah Savage, later Mrs. Cornett of Shedd, Linn County. (Both deceased).

[The Heritage, Linn County Historical Society, Linn County, Oregon, November 1997 p. 86-88]

James Madison Yantis s/o John and Priscilla (Lapsley) Yantis

wife: Sarah Ann Hamilton
Children:
Robert Franklin Yantis
Priscilla Owsley Yantis
Eliza Jane "Judy" Yantis
Amelia Ann Yantis
Mary F. "Mollie" Yantis
Thomas L. Yantis
James A. Yantis
William Worthington Yantis