Dr. William Weatherford

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com





[History of the Pacific Northwest – Oregon and Washington, Volume 1, p. 74a]

Dr. William Weatherford
b. 04 Nov 1814 Virginia
d. 10 May 1880 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
s/o Joseph Weatherford and Molly Margaret Cully

m. 1839 Indiana
Mahala Harris
b. 11 Sep 1822 Beaufort, North Carolina
d. 19 Dec 1906 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
d/o Josiah Harris and Nancy Canaday

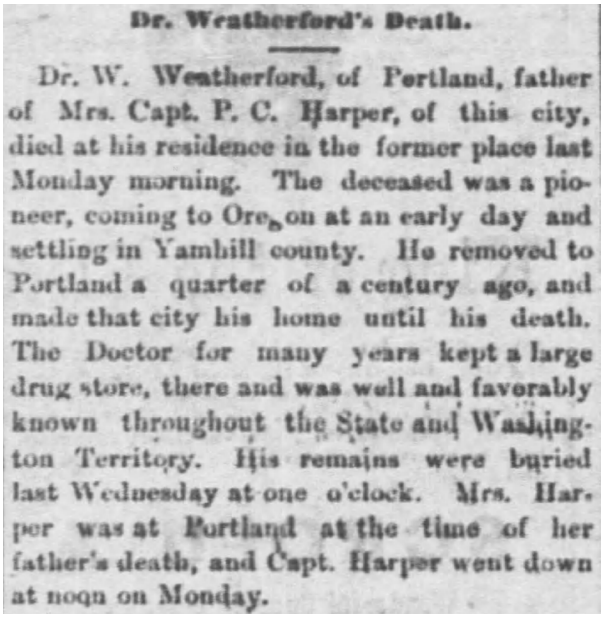
1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, July 20, 1870; Wm Weatherford, 55, druggist, A$4000 $5000, VA; Mahala, 47, keeping house, NC; Mary, 30, IL; Emma, 18, IA, Ella, 16, at school, OR; Ada, 14, OR; Lille, 12, OR; Charles, 8, OR

DIED.

At his residence in this city, about 10 o'clock A. M., Monday, May 17, 1880, Dr. Wm. Weatherford, aged 65 years, 6 months, 13 days.

Funeral from residence, corner Second and Salmon, Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Tuesday, May 18, 1880, p. 2]



Dr. Weatherford's Death.

Dr. W. Weatherford, of Portland, father of Mrs. Capt. P. C. Harper, of this city, died at his residence in the former place last Monday morning. The deceased was a pioneer, coming to Oregon at an early day and settling in Yamhill county. He removed to Portland a quarter of a century ago, and made that city his home until his death. The Doctor for many years kept a large drug store, there and was well and favorably known throughout the State and Washington Territory. His remains were buried last Wednesday at one o'clock. Mrs. Harper was at Portland at the time of her father's death, and Capt. Harper went down at noon on Monday.

[Albany Democrat, Albany, Oregon, Friday, May 21, 1880, p. 3]

"Death of Dr. Weatherford—All the old citizens of Portland, and the Oregonian, will regret to hear that the honored old pioneer, Dr. Wm. Weatherford is dead. About ten days ago he was taken ill and on several occasions since came very near death's door, but rallied time and time again. Each successive attack, however, weakened the cord which held him to life, and at 10 o'clock Monday morning, in the bosom of his family he peacefully and seemingly without pain or fear, yielded his spirit into the hands of his maker. Indeed, his death was a remarkable one in its tranquility and the composure with which was held. With the full possession of his conscious that he could not recover, Dr. Weatherford had, days before his death, arranged all his business, even to the minutest item, and when all was settled, he remarked 'Now I am ready.' The few days that passed before that final summons, he possessed his soul in the utmost patience, seeming to have no more care for earthly matters, but willing to live and suffer without murmuring or to depart from life. Last Sunday he had a sinking spell and when he partially recovered, remarked to his family that the next would be his last. And his words were true. Monday morning, he again began to fail, and bidding his family good bye said: 'This is the last; I must go;' ad in a few moments with perfect calmness, with even a heroism not often witnessed, he sank into the sleep of death.

Dr. Weatherford was born in Virginia in 1814, settled in Iowa in 1843, and came to Oregon in 1852, residing for a time in Lafayette and Salem, but took up his residence in Portland in 1855, and has lived there ever since, having the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Passing out of life, he leaves an aged widow, three sons and five daughters. All his family with one exception were present at the time of his death, and with tenderest care smoothed his way into the dark valley. They will have the earnest sympathy of many friends in the hour of their affliction and sorrow." [The Astorian, Astoria, Oregon, Friday, May 21, 1880, p. 9]

FUNERAL OF A PIONEER WOMAN

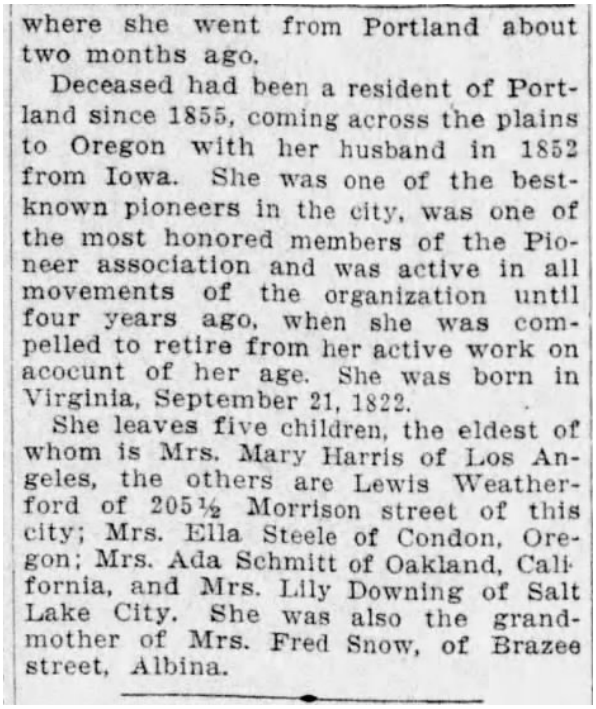
Remains of Mrs. Mahala Weatherford Laid to Rest in Lone Fir.

The funeral of Mrs. Mahala Weatherford, wife of the late Dr. William Weatherford and a pioneer of 1852, occurred yesterday from the First Presbyterian church, interment at Lone Fir.

Mrs. Weatherford died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ella Steele, Wednesday, December 19, in Condon, Oregon,



Mrs. Mahala Weatherford.



where she went from Portland about two months ago.

Deceased had been a resident of Portland since 1855, coming across the plains to Oregon with her husband in 1852 from Iowa. She was one of the best-known pioneers in the city, was one of the most honored members of the Pioneer association and was active in all movements of the organization until four years ago, when she was compelled to retire from her active work on acocunt of her age. She was born in Virginia, September 21, 1822.

She leaves five children, the eldest of whom is Mrs. Mary Harris of Los Angeles, the others are Lewis Weatherford of 205½ Morrison street of this city; Mrs. Ella Steele of Condon, Oregon; Mrs. Ada Schmitt of Oakland, California, and Mrs. Lily Downing of Salt Lake City. She was also the grandmother of Mrs. Fred Snow, of Brazee street, Albina.

[The Oregon Daily Journal, Portland, Oregon, Saturday, December 22, 1906, p. 2]



The death at the home of her daughter, Mrs. David Steel, in this city, of Mrs. Matilda Weatherford is announced. Mrs. Weatherford was a pioneer of 1853, having come to Oregon with her husband, the late Dr. William Weatherford, in that year. The family settled at first in La Fayette, Yamhill County, but after a few years removed to Portland, where, after many years of active practice of his profession, Dr. Weatherford died some years ago. A frail, gentle, whitehaired woman, Mrs. Weatherford has for years been a familiar figure at the reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association. She was the mother of a large family, most of whom have passed on. Her life covered the wide space that intervenes between the storied days of early Oregon and its present development in civilization. By the few who, in later years, have known and loved her, this gentle pioneer woman will be missed, while the wider circle made up of the friends of other days will learn of her passing with tender regret.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Saturday, December 22, 1908, p. 8]

"MRS. M. WEATHERFORD -- Of all the pioneers of Oregon, none have performed a more devoted part than this now venerable lady, who is well known and esteemed in our chief city. She was born near Beaufort, North Carolina, September 22, 1822. In her fifth year she accompanied her father Josiah Harris

and family to Indiana, making a new home. In 1839 she was married to William Weatherford, a young physician from Richmond, Virginia. Thus, united they entered upon various scenes, and made their home in a number of different places in the old West, selecting New Haven, Illinois, as their first residence. The location, however, proving unhealthful, they advanced further towards the outposts of civilization to Iowa, stopping successively at Keosauqua, Bonaparte and Oskaloosa. With none of these were they fully satisfied; and the Doctor determined to push to the very verge of the continent, and to become a builder of a new state on the Pacific shores. Preparing for this great undertaking, he was able to be off on April 22, 1852.

With his family of wife and five young children, and in company with Mr. William Dart and family, he set forth. Soon after starting, two young men were taken into their company; and these were the sole regular associates of their march. The journey on the Nebraska or Platte river was made uncomfortable at times by bands of Pawnee Indians stopping them and demanding toll; and more than once Mrs. Weatherford was addressed by an Indian with a drawn knife for a supply of victuals. By appeals to their sympathy, she avoided difficulty. They found the plains populous with emigrants and were not lacking in chance traveling companions. On the plains east of the Rockies, they were overtaken by that dread pestilence which scourged the immigration of that season, the cholera, of which Mrs. Weatherford had repeated attacks; and the Doctor was called upon to administer to the sick in the trains before or behind. Great was the suffering thus experienced, and such that one in anticipation would not believe endurable.

On the western slope of the continent the mountain or typhoid fever was almost as malignant and called for as great attention on the part of the Doctor. It was, therefore, with great satisfaction that in August they passed the ridge of the Cascade Mountains, and at last saw Mount Hood behind them. To a gentleman asking Mrs. Weatherford how she had enjoyed the trip, she replied that if that mountain were a wedge of solid gold and should be hers for crossing the plains to get it, she would refuse the gift at that price; not that she was sorry for coming but felt that her strength would be insufficient for such an undertaking. It was by the exertions of such wives and mothers, who gave all but life and sometimes even that, that our state was purchased from savagery.

The first home was made at Lafayette, the Doctor entering there upon the practice of his profession. He was led to believe, however, that at Portland was the best opportunity for business and a career, and in 1855 moved to the then little city in the woods. Besides attending upon the sick, he established in 1856 a drug business, dealing both in a wholesale and retail line. In 1869 this was enlarged by a branch house at Salem, under the management of his son, J. W. Weatherford, now a practitioner in Portland. Being a man of wide information and much ambition, in about 1867 he assumed the management of the Herald, the Democratic paper of Portland. He found it in a bankrupt condition; but so able and popular was his management that it almost immediately became a financial as well as a literary success.

Owing to the cares of a business so extensive, he began to decline in health, and in 1872 retired from active business in Portland, although still retaining his interest at Salem. In 1880 his life forces gave way; and he passed from this to the better life. Although in the midst of much weakness during the last weeks of life, he preserved his faculties in perfect clearness, had his business affairs in perfect order, and was afflicted by no dread nor shadow of the future. He left his family provided with ample means.

During the years of her husband's activity, Mrs. Weatherford made for him a home of comfort and refinement, strengthened his hands in the community, and herself furnished of her endowment something of the refinement and better ideas so essential to transform the wild society of early Oregon into our present elevated position. The labor of creating Christian communities in our state fell, as the credit should be awarded, to women like Mrs. ·weather-ford, who would not lower their conception of life, even though living away from all the ordinary incentives to social exertions.

She has reared a family of nine children: Mary E. (Mrs. F. H. Simmons); J. W.; William G. (deceased); Lewis C.; Emma C. (Mrs. S. S. Douglas); Sarah E. (Mrs. David Steel); Ada H. (Mrs. R. Schmidt); Lilly M. (Mrs. Doctor S. N. A. Downing); and Charles E." [History of the Pacific Northwest – Oregon and Washington, Volume 2, p. 635-6]

Children of William M. Weatherford and Mahala Harris:
1. Mary Elizabeth P. Weatherford
b. May 1840 Illinois
d. 16 May 1920 Los Angeles County, California [California death index]

1889: Mary E. Weatherford (Mrs. F. H. Simmons), California, [per Mahala Weatherford biography]
1895: Mrs. M. Harris, Los Angeles, California, [per Emma Douglas, obituary]
1906 Mary Harris, Los Angeles, California, [per Mahala Weatherford obituary]

m. 30 Jun 1859 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
Dr. Fred. H. Simmons
b. 1842 Rhode Island
d. c1882 California

m2 1882 California [this marriage to Emil Harris is not confirmed]
Emil Harris
b. 20 Dec 1839 Germany
d. 28 Apr 1921 Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California
m1. Leda [unknown] 1865 Los Angeles County, California

1859: June 30 F. H. Simmons married to Mary E. Weatherford, d/o Dr. W. Weatherford, in Portland by Rev. Peasley B. Chamberlain [Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon July 5, 1859, p. 2]

1860: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 8, 1860; F. H. Simmons, 28, druggist, $1000 $500, RI; Mary 27, IL; Alice, 1/12, OR

1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, July 20, 1870; Wm Weatherford, 55, druggist, A$4000 $5000, VA; Mahala, 47, keeping house, NC; Mary, 30, IL; Emma, 18, IA, Ella, 16, at school, OR; Ada, 14, OR; Lille, 12, OR; Charles, 8, OR

1880: Mount Tabor, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 10, 1880; H. Simmons, 40, boarder, s, works on farm, Rhode Island [enumerated in W. D. Prettyman household]

Note: The following information has not been confirmed and it has conflicting information]:

1900: Los Angeles Ward 03, Los Angeles, California, June 12, 1900; Emil Harris, head, Jan 1840, 60, m-18 yrs, Germany Germany Germany, detective; Mary E., wife, May 1850 [?], 50, 1-1, VA VA SC

1910: Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, April 23, 1910; Emil Harris, head, 70, m2 – 50 yrs, Germany, Germany, Germany, private detective; Mary, wife, 72, m2-50 yrs, 1-1 children, IL VA VA

1920: Mary Harris, b. c 1841 died 16 May 1820, age 79 years, Los Angeles County, California

1920: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, January 8, 1920; Emil Harris, brother-in-law, widower, Germany Germany Germany [note: the date on this census is prior to the death date of Mary Weatherford unless this portion of the census was taken later]

MARSHAL OF EARLY DAYS IS CALLED.

Wore Official Star Here Half-Century Ago; Helped Capture Road Agent.

Finish will be written at the end of another chapter of this city's early history tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., when funeral services will be held in the Riedeman chapel at 1618 South Main street for Emil Harris, town marshal of the pueblo of Los Angeles fifty years ago.

"Cap." Harris died Thursday at the Lincoln Hospital, from acute heart trouble, after an illness of about one year. He was one of the best known peace officers in Southern California. After coming here he joined the police force, then consisting of less than a dozen men, and after serving as a patrolman for several years he was made town marshal.

In the 70's, while he was serving as a deputy sheriff under Sheriff "Billy" Roland, Mr. Harris assisted in the capture of Vasquez, the notorious road agent, at "Greek George's" place near what is now Hollywood. As a deputy, Mr. Harris assisted in quelling the famous Chinese riot, which many old-timers recall—an outbreak which resulted in the killing of one or two policemen and the informal hanging of about twenty-five orientals to poles along Los Angeles street one fateful night, following a Chinatown quarrel over a Chinese woman.

After leaving the Sheriff's office Mr. Harris conducted a private detective agency for many years. Lately he had served papers out of the law office of John Mott. He was born in Germany eighty-two years ago.

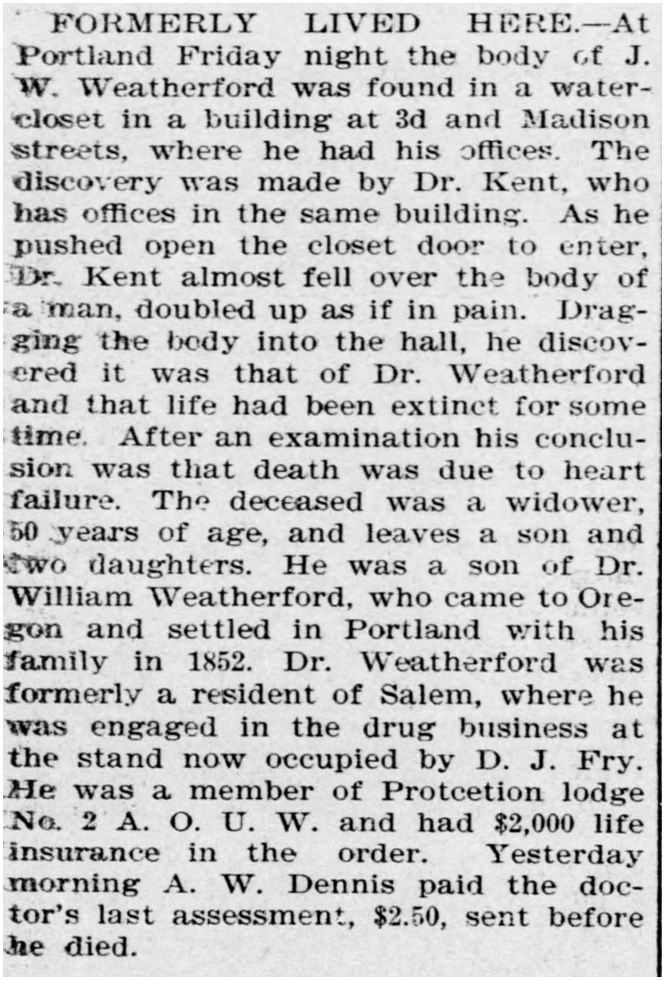
[The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, Saturday, April 30, 1921, p. 22]

2. Dr. James Washington Weatherford
b. 22 Sep 1842 Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, Iowa
d. 20 Sep 1893 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. 28 May 1863 Multnomah County, Oregon
Rebecca Ellen Robinson
b. 1843 Missouri
d. bef Sep 1893 Oregon
burial location unknown
d/o Nathaniel Robinson and Mary Elizabeth Dorland

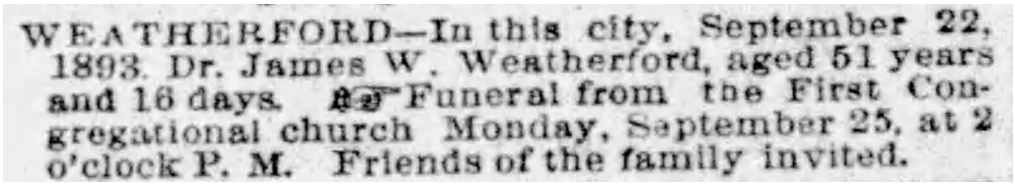
1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 27, 1870; J. W. Weatherford, 26, druggist, $0 $800, IA; R. E., 26, keeping house, MO; Frederick, 6, OR; Ina, 2, OR; Pearl, 9/12 (Oct), OR; Maggie Landreth, 20, domestic, IA

1880: Salem, Marion County, Oregon, June 5, 1880; J. W. Weatherford, 38, druggist, IA VA IN; R. S., 37, wife, keeping house, IL MO MO; Fred, 16, son, clerk in drug store, O IA IL; Ina, 12, dau, OR IA IL; Pearl, 10, dau, OR IA IL; Cynthia Jordon, 18, servant, house keeper, OR



FORMERLY LIVED HERE.—At Portland Friday night the body of J. W. Weatherford was found in a water-closet in a building at 3d and Madison streets, where he had his offices. The discovery was made by Dr. Kent, who has offices in the same building. As he pushed open the closet door to enter, Dr. Kent almost fell over the body of a man, doubled up as if in pain. Dragging the body into the hall, he discovered it was that of Dr. Weatherford and that life had been extinct for some time. After an examination his conclusion was that death was due to heart failure. The deceased was a widower, 50 years of age, and leaves a son and two daughters. He was a son of Dr. William Weatherford, who came to Oregon and settled in Portland with his family in 1852. Dr. Weatherford was formerly a resident of Salem, where he was engaged in the drug business at the stand now occupied by D. J. Fry. He was a member of Protcetion lodge No. 2 A. O. U. W. and had $2,000 life insurance in the order. Yesterday morning A. W. Dennis paid the doctor's last assessment, $2.50, sent before he died.

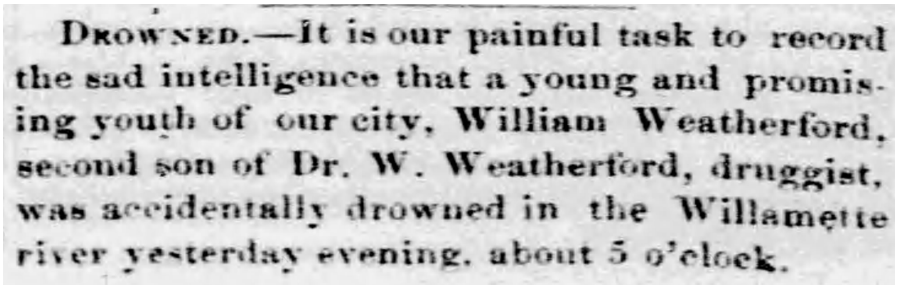
[Statesman Journal, Salem, Oregon, Sunday, September 24, 1893, p. 8]



WEATHERFORD—In this city, September 22, 1893. Dr. James W. Weatherford, aged 51 years and 16 days. ☞ Funeral from the First Congregational church Monday, September 25, at 2 o'clock P. M. Friends of the family invited.

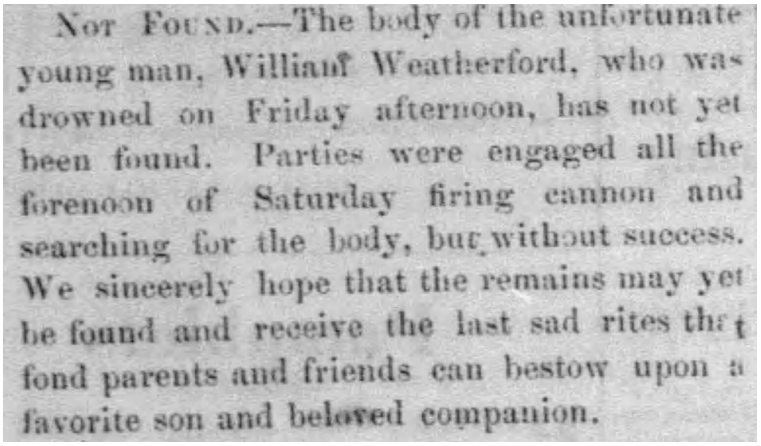
[The Sunday Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, September 24, 1893, p. 6]

3. William G. Weatherford
b. 25 Nov 1844 Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, Iowa
d. 01 Aug 1862 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon



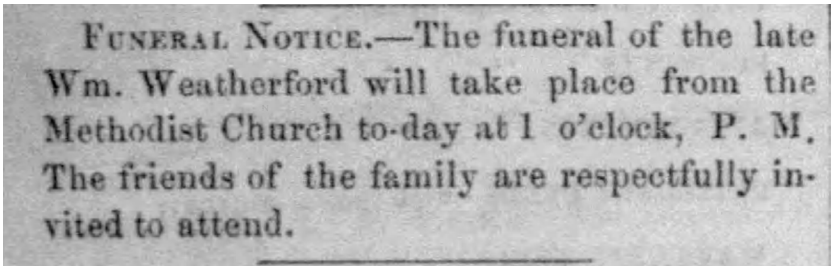
DROWNED.—It is our painful task to record the sad intelligence that a young and promising youth of our city, William Weatherford, second son of Dr. W. Weatherford, druggist, was accidentally drowned in the Willamette river yesterday evening, about 5 o'clock.

[The Weekly Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Saturday, August 2, 1862, p. 2]



NOT FOUND.—The body of the unfortunate young man, William Weatherford, who was drowned on Friday afternoon, has not yet been found. Parties were engaged all the forenoon of Saturday firing cannon and searching for the body, but without success. We sincerely hope that the remains may yet be found and receive the last sad rites that fond parents and friends can bestow upon a favorite son and beloved companion.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Monday, August 4, 1862, p. 3]



FUNERAL NOTICE.—The funeral of the late Wm. Weatherford will take place from the Methodist Church to-day at 1 o'clock, P. M. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

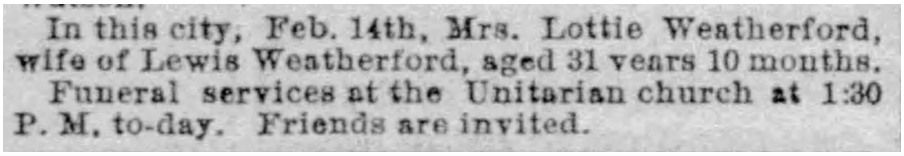
[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Thursday, August 7, 1862, p. 3]

4. Lewis Cass Weatherford
b. 08 Sep 1847 Iowa
d. c 1908 Oregon

m1. Feb 1869 Multnomah County, Oregon
Charlotte "Lottie" Terwilliger

b. 1847 New York
d. 14 Feb 1881 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m2. 22 Jan 1890 Oregon
Mrs. Millie A Roberts Smith
b. 1850 New York or 1846 Indiana
d. 13 Jan 1915 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon


In this city, Feb. 14th, Mrs. Lottie Weatherford, wife of Lewis Weatherford, aged 31 years 10 months. Funeral services at the Unitarian church at 1:30 P. M. to-day. Friends are invited.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Tuesday, February 15, 1881, p. 2]

1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 28, 1870, Lewis Weatherford, 23, druggist, clerk, IA; Charlotte, 21, keeping house, IA

1880: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 3 & 4, 1880; L. Weatherford, 31, head, engineer, IA VA IA; Lottie, 30, wife, NY NY NY

1900: 12th Pct, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 1, 1900; Lewis Weatherford, boarder, Sep 1847, 53, m-11 yrs, IA VA VA, engineer

1908 Louis C. Weatherford, marine engineer, residence 205 1/2 Morrison, Portland, Oregon [Portland, Oregon City Directory]

1910: Portland Ward 7, Multnomah County, Oregon, April 21 & 23, 1910; IOOF Home, Millie A. Weatherford, inmate, 64, widow, 0-0 children, IN IN IN



ENGINEER ON MISSING LIST

Lew Weatherford, 808 First street, a river steamer engineer, who has lived in Portland many years, has disappeared. The last seen of him was last Sunday, when he left home, saying he would soon return. Mrs. Weatherford fears her husband has committed suicide. He had been out of work for some time.

Weatherford telephoned to a friend last Sunday afternoon, asking her to tell his wife that he would not be home for a few days. He said he was in Oregon City. An investigation was made and the telephone company reported that Weatherford had been in Vancouver, Wash., when he had telephoned to Portland. The police in Vancouver have been asked to keep a lookout for him.

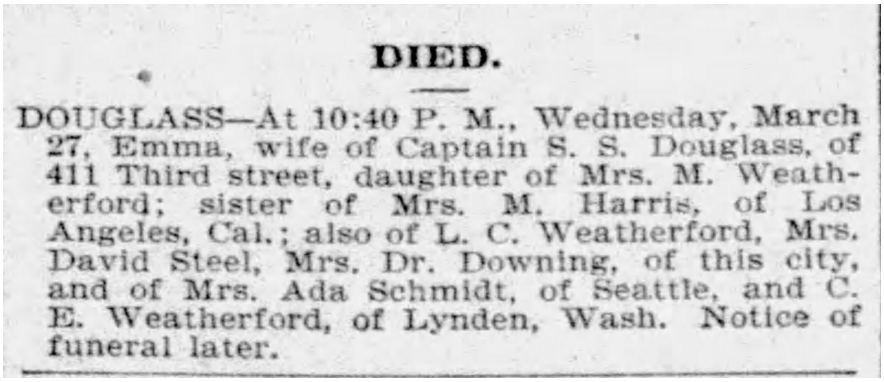
Weatherford is six feet in height and 61 years of age. When he left home he wore a dark sack suit and a black felt hat.

[The Oregon Daily Journal, Portland, Oregon, Sunday, November 22, 1908, p. 47]

5. Emma C. Weatherford
b. 18 Nov 1851 Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, Iowa
d. 27 Mar 1895 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. 1874 Multnomah County, Oregon
Samuel S. Douglas
b. 28 Apr 1838 New York
d. 24 Feb 1898 Polk County, Oregon
buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

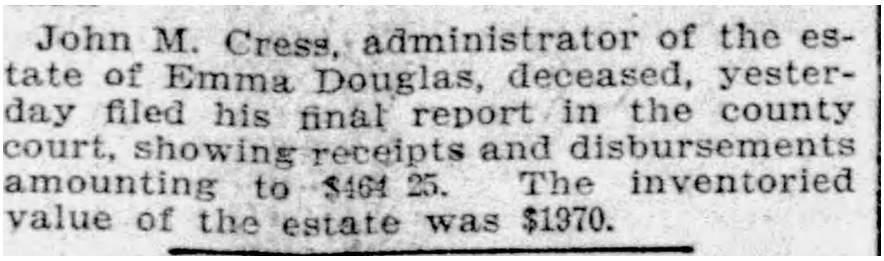
1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, July 20, 1870; Wm Weatherford, 55, druggist, $4000 $5000, VA; Mahala, 47, keeping house, NC; Mary, 30, IL; Emma, 18, IA, Ella, 16, at school, OR; Ada, 14, OR; Lille, 12, OR; Charles, 8, OR



DIED.

DOUGLASS—At 10:40 P. M., Wednesday, March 27, Emma, wife of Captain S. S. Douglass, of 411 Third street, daughter of Mrs. M. Weatherford; sister of Mrs. M. Harris, of Los Angeles, Cal.; also of L. C. Weatherford, Mrs. David Steel, Mrs. Dr. Downing, of this city, and of Mrs. Ada Schmidt, of Seattle, and C. E. Weatherford, of Lynden, Wash. Notice of funeral later.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Thursday, March 28, 1895, p. 7]



John M. Cress, administrator of the estate of Emma Douglas, deceased, yesterday filed his final report in the county court, showing receipts and disbursements amounting to $464 25. The inventoried value of the estate was $1370.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Friday, December 27, 1895, p. 8]

5. Sarah Ella Weatherford
b. 27 Feb 1854 Lafayette, Yamhill County, Oregon
d. 18 Jun 1935 Dayton, Yamhill County, Oregon
1906 living in Condon, Oregon

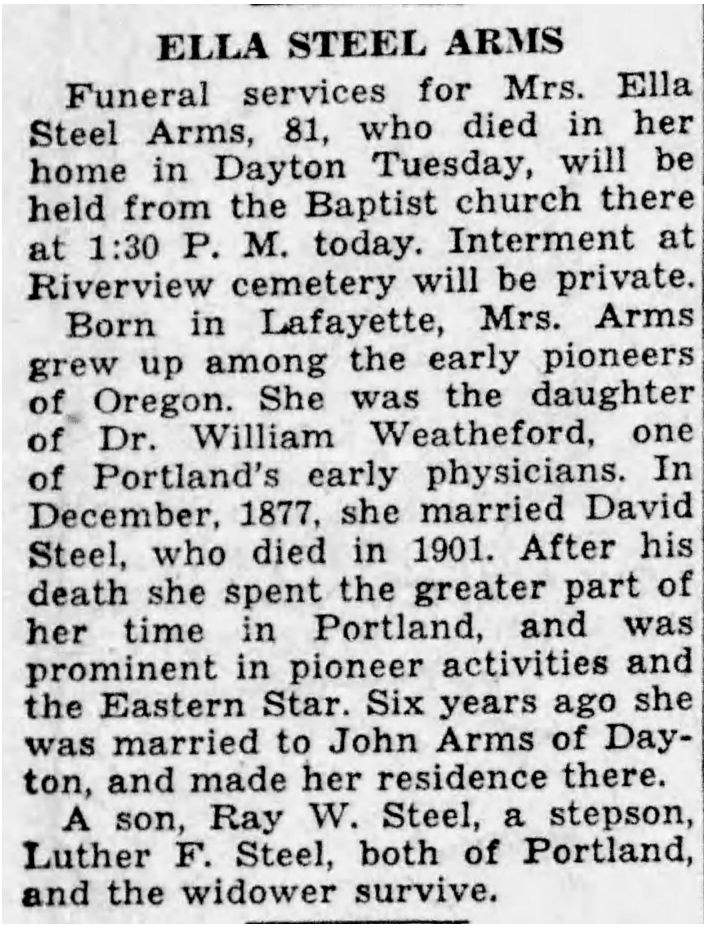
m1. Dec 1877
David Steele
b. 01 Jul 1843 Ohio
d. 16 May 1901 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried River View Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
m1. Mary M. Foulke 1878, Oregon

m2. 12 Jun 1929
Johnathan Arms
b. 09 Jan 1859 Polk County, North Carolina
d. 29 Oct 1941 Dayton, Yamhill County, Oregon
buried Brookside Cemetery, Dayton, Yamhill County, Oregon
m1. Rachel Hudson 1878, Oregon
m2. Cora Ellen Deary, Oregon

1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, July 20, 1870; Wm Weatherford, 55, druggist, A$4000 $5000, VA; Mahala, 47, keeping house, NC; Mary, 30, IL; Emma, 18, IA, Ella, 16, at school, OR; Ada, 14, OR; Lille, 12, OR; Charles, 8, OR

1900: Portland, Ward 4, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 3, 1900; David Steele, head, Jul 1843, m-23 yrs, OH Scotland Scotland, clerk; Ella, wife, Feb 1855, 45, m-23 yrs, 1-1 children OR VA NC; Raymond, son, May 1881, 19, s, OR OH OR, at school

1910: Salt Lake City Ward 5, Salt Lake County, Utah, April 21, 1910; Samuel A. N. Downing, 53, m-2, 22 yrs, IA KY IA, physician; Lilliam M., wife, 50, m2 – 22 yrs, 1-1 children OR VA NC; Earl R. Downing, son, 24, wid, OR IA OR, c lerk in Post Office; Ella W. Steele, sister in law, 55, wid, 1-1 children, OR VA NC, teacher



ELLA STEEL ARMS

Funeral services for Mrs. Ella Steel Arms, 81, who died in her home in Dayton Tuesday, will be held from the Baptist church there at 1:30 P. M. today. Interment at Riverview cemetery will be private.

Born in Lafayette, Mrs. Arms grew up among the early pioneers of Oregon. She was the daughter of Dr. William Weatheford, one of Portland's early physicians. In December, 1877, she married David Steel, who died in 1901. After his death she spent the greater part of her time in Portland, and was prominent in pioneer activities and the Eastern Star. Six years ago she was married to John Arms of Dayton, and made her residence there.

A son, Ray W. Steel, a stepson, Luther F. Steel, both of Portland, and the widower survive.

[The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Thursday, June 20, 1935, p. 14]

6. Ada H. Weatherford
b. Feb 1856 Multnomah County, Oregon
d. 16 Nov 1914 Alameda County, California

m1. 1877 Multnomah County, Oregon
J. F. Abraham
b.
d.

m2. 1882 Multnomah County, Oregon
Richard Schmidt
b. Feb 1856 California
d. 07 Jan 1929 Contra Costa, California

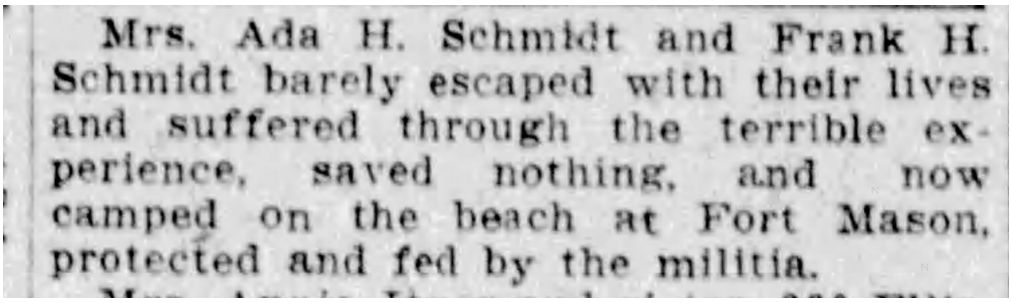
1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, July 20, 1870; Wm Weatherford, 55, druggist, 4000 $5000, VA; Mahala, 47, keeping house, NC; Mary, 30, IL; Emma, 18, IA, Ella, 16, at school, OR; Ada, 14, OR; Lille, 12, OR; Charles, 8, OR

1900: Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, June 7, 1900; Richard Schmidt, head, Feb 1856, 44, m-23 yrs, CA Germany Germany, general contractor; Ada H., wife, Feb 1856, 44, m-23 yrs, 1-1 children, OR VA NC; Frank H., son, Apr 1879, 21, s, OR CA OR, student

1910: Oakland Twp, Berkely, Alameda County, California, April 26, 1910; Richard Schmidt, head, 54, m-28 yrs, CA Germany Germany, promoter-mining; Ada H., wife, 54, m-28 yrs, OR VA NC; Frank H., son, 31, s, OR CA OR, teacher- stenography

1920: Moore Haven, De Soto County, Florida, January 8, 1920; Richard Schmidt, boarder, 63, wid, CA OH OH, contractor – service waterworks

1906: San Francisco, California earthquake


Mrs. Ada H. Schmidt and Frank H. Schmidt barely escaped with their lives and suffered through the terrible experience, saved nothing, and now camped on the beach at Fort Mason, protected and fed by the militia.

[The Oregon Daily Journal, Portland, Oregon, Wednesday, April 25, 1906, p. 12]

7. Lillian "Lillie" May Weatherford
b. 06 May 1859 Oregon
d. 22 Apr 1926 San Diego County, California
1906 living in Salt Lake City

m1. 1877 Multnomah County, Oregon
P. C. Harper
b.
d.

m2. Sep 1888 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
Dr. Samuel Nathaniel Applebee Downing
b. 11 Jul 1856 Linn County, Iowa
d. 19 Jun 1921 Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah
s/o William Downing and Armenia Applebee
m1. Catharine Buirgy 10 Oct 1877 Multnomah County, Oregon divorced Sep 1888

1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, July 20, 1870; Wm Weatherford, 55, druggist, $4000 $5000, VA; Mahala, 47, keeping house, NC; Mary, 30, IL; Emma, 18, IA, Ella, 16, at school, OR; Ada, 14, OR; Lille, 12, OR; Charles, 8, OR

1900: Denver, Arapahoe County, Colorado, June 13, 1900; Samuel S Downing, head, Jul 1856, 43, m-23 yrs, IA KY PA, doctor; Lillie M., wife, May 1859, 41, m-23 yrs, 2-1 children, OR VA NC; Earl, son, Dec 1884, 15, OR IA OR; Lizzie Moller, boarder, Mar 1881, 19, s, CO Germany Germany, house keeper

1910: Salt Lake City Ward 5, Salt Lake County, Utah, April 21, 1910; Samuel A. N. Downing, 53, m-2, 22 yrs, IA KY IA, physician; Lilliam M., wife, 50, m2 – 22 yrs, 1-1 children OR VA NC; Earl R.

Downing, son, 24, wid, OR IA OR, c lerk in Post Office; Ella W. Steele, sister in law, 55, wid, 1-1 children, OR VA NC, teacher

8. Charles "Charlie" E. Weatherford
b. 18 Apr 1862 Oregon
d. 25 Jun 1932 Bellingham, Washington
burial location unknown

1870: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, July 20, 1870; Wm Weatherford, 55, druggist, A$4000 $5000, VA; Mahala, 47, keeping house, NC; Mary, 30, IL; Emma, 18, IA, Ella, 16, at school, OR; Ada, 14, OR; Lille, 12, OR; Charles, 8, OR

"Courthouse Janitor Is 74 Years Old Today --"Charlie" Weatherford, who is a familiar figure around the Whatcom county courthouse in the role of janitor, is celebrating his seventy-fourth birthday today. Weatherford was born in 1850, in an Iowa village, and when three years old crossed the plains to the west in a covered wagon, drawn by an ox team. With his parents, settlement was made in Oregon. Weatherford came to Bellingham in 1886 and recalls the ox teams used in this community at that time, for plowing, logging, and clearing homesteads. He is still active and hearty." [Bellingham Herald, Bellingham, Washington, Friday, April 18, p. 16]

"Charlie Weatherford Ill With La Grippe -- Charlie Weatherford who would rather make his home at the county jail than any place else, was taken to the county hospital today suffering from an attack of the grippe.

Charlie" hasn't been feeling well lately and at the suggestion of Sherriff T.C. Fraser he decided to go to the county hospital. Past 80 years of age, Charlie has been living at the county jail about twenty years. In exchange for a place to eat and sleep, he does odd jobs around the courthouse." [Bellingham Herald, Bellingham, Washington, Saturday, October 4, 1930, p. 2]

"Attaches of Court Remember Old timer --Although one familiar figure around the courthouse is missing as another Christmas rolls around, the courthouse family isn't forgetting him.

Old Charley Weatherford, who has been living at the courthouse for more than a score of years, is making his home at the Whatcom county farm now, and today the kind-hearted attaches of the superior court were taking up a contribution to brighten up Christmas for "Old Charley." Tobacco and candy were the principal contributions." [Bellingham Herald, Bellingham, Washington, Tuesday, December 23, 1930, p. 14]

"Charles Weatherford, Familiar Character At Courthouse, Dies -- Charles Weatherford, for many years a familiar character around the county courthouse, died today at North Bellingham, aged 82 years. He leaves many friends here, but no known relatives. Many years ago Mr. Weatherford was assistant custodian and engineer at the courthouse. He had been at North Bellingham about two years. Funeral announcements will be made by the Harlow-Hollingsworth funeral home" [Bellingham Herald, Bellingham, Washington, Saturday, June 25, 1932, p. 3]

Charles Weatherford first made the news in Bellingham in 1908, when he confessed to a brutal murder that happened locally. He was arrested and kept in the jail until it eventually became apparent that he was insane, and probably harmless. He refused to leave the jail when they tried to oust him, and it even inspired a fellow inmate to write a poem about him. The county jail ended up letting him stay and sleep on a "bunk" in the "engine room" and fed him in exchange for janitorial work. He remained there the majority of his life and became a well-known "character" as indicated by the news mentioned above. When he became ill in his 80s he was moved to the county (poor) farm where he could be cared for. He died there in 1932. No one knew anything about his family. [ancestry.com]