

From the Telegram.

Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 16.—The first white man born in the "Oregon" territory saw the light of day December 7, 1838, at the pioneer post, Waillatpu, located at a spot a few miles from this city. At that time Walla Walla was unknown, and the vast fields and orchards which have since made the city famous were not dreamed of.

In a little adobe structure known as a mission, built by the hands of Dr. Marcus Whitman and his few friends, surrounded by only the bare necessities of life, savages upon all sides, with no neighbors nor friends save those of their own party, a number of missionaries were doomed to pass the winter of 1838. This was Whitman mission, in charge of Dr. Whitman and his heroic wife. Among the party thus gathered together for mutual protection and assistance were Rev. Elkanah Walker and his wife, who but a few months before was Miss Mary Richardson, living in the state of Maine. On the 7th day of December, a bleak and stormy day, a tiny son came into the Walker household, and so far as history records he was the first white child to be born in Oregon. Oregon then occupied all the territory north of California as far east as the Rocky Mountains.

In the little town of Baldwin, Maine, March 5, 1838, Rev. Elkanah Walker and Miss Mary Richardson were married, and after farewells had been said, started on the long journey to Oregon. The party started on the day of the wedding, and consisted of the groom and bride, Rev. Cushing Eils and wife, Rev. A. B. Smith and wife and W. H. Gray and wife. As an escort a number of trappers and mountaineers, among whom was Col. Joseph L. Meek, afterwards the first United States Marshal for Oregon, accompanied the party, and these hardy men did much to lighten the burden of travelling, and in many ways assisted the missionaries on their dangerous trip of over 3000 miles:

The party was sent to assist Marcus Whitman by the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions. A fair equipment for the journey was furnished, but nothing, save the necessary articles, was taken into consideration by even the women who were to try the Western country in its wild state. The journey from the Missouri river was made on horseback, enough horses being taken along to carry the provisions and equipment, each of the women having a horse for her own use. On the 29th day of August, 1838, nearly six months after the start had been made, the party arrived at Waillatpu, their destination, tired and worn by the experiences of hitherto unknown hardships.

Cyrus Henry Walker was the name given the little lad who appeared at the mission that bleak December day, and as a man he still lives to tell his own story of life in Oregon. At present he resides at Albany, and is engaged in the production of fruits. Walker was born in the mission house, the building in which the

would be secured to carry over the women and children and effects, and the men would make the horses swim the stream. The crossing was always made below the mouth of the Palouse River. The missionaries were the first, in this way to discover the falls in the Palouse River.

Dr. Whitman had planted a very small orchard at his mission, and in 1846 the first fruit was gathered. These apples were the first ever seen by Cyrus Walker and the first eaten by any of the party since their Eastern homes were left.

The fall of 1847 was the time of terror and carnage. Measles broke out among the Indians, and the missionaries were terribly afflicted also. Cyrus Walker had the disease in an aggravated form, the effects still being present with him. It was December 5, when the party in Spokane territory heard the first news of the Whitman massacre, in a note from a Cayuse Indian who had been very friendly. J. M. Stawley, an artist, came near being killed at the same time, he having left the Spokane mission to visit Dr. Whitman, arriving just after the murders.

During the winter that followed the massacre the Spokane mission was abandoned and the missionaries were housed at Fort Colville, now abandoned, for safety. In May, 60 volunteers arrived and escorted the party from Fort Colville out of the country, en route to the Willamette valley. Major Joseph Magone had charge of the detachment.

June 20, 1848, the party arrived at Oregon City, and here found Dr. Jehn McLoughlin, the sturdy old Scotchman, who took quite an interest in the lad, Cyrus, and did much for him during the year he remained in the place.

Rev. Walker removed his family to Forest Grove in October, 1849, and here Cyrus entered Pacific University, being one of the first students to enroll at the opening.

In 1859 Cyrus H. Walker married and set out for himself, following the life of a farmer. In the spring of 1863 he removed to Umatilla county, and settled upon Birch Creek. With a number of fine cows he established a dairy, and for some time sold butter to the miners at Boise, receiving an average of \$1 per pound for his product. While here Walker was visited by H. W. Scott, now editor of the Oregonian, who was returning from the Boise mines, Walker and Scott then made their first trip to the Camas Prairie country, the mode of travel being horseback only.

In 1864 Mr. Walker enlisted with the first company of infantry from Washington county, and 26 days later was made First Lieutenant of Company B, First Oregon Infantry at Camp Russell, near Salem. In the spring the company was ordered to Fort Boise, and the trip was made on foot, officers as well as men walking and carrying their blankets.

Upon arrival at the fort the men were made up in two detachments, one party to go to Camas Prairie and the other Snake River to guard Gibson's Ferry. Walker was given charge of the river detachment and spent several months guarding the old emigrant road. The following winter was spent at old Fort Hall. The company was mustered out in the spring, and Walker reached Walla Walla July 15, 1866, en route homeward. Since that time he has never visited the city, nor the old scenes where his first days were spent.

In 1877 Mr. Walker was appointed to a position at the Warm Springs Indian Agency, remaining there 15 years, most of the time as agency clerk. In 1892 Walker left the agency and removed to Albany, Or., where he now resides.

In politics Mr. Walker is a Prohibitionist, being a firm believer in moderation in all things. In religion he is a member of the Congregational Church, and has been from early manhood. He is a member of the Oregon Native Sons, of the Grand Army of the republic and Patrons of Husbandry.

Not only is Mr. Walker the oldest white man born in Oregon, but he is also the oldest white man born west of the Rocky Mountains. The place of his birth is now located in Washington, a few miles from the city of Walla Walla, just across the Oregon line. Originally the spot was near the eastern boundary of the "Oregon Country."

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tion of fruits. Walker was born in the mission house, the building in which the massacre occurred November 29, 1847, when the Cayuse Indians killed Dr. Whitman and his wife. Young Walker was with the Whitmans a great deal of the time before their deaths, and has a good recollection of many of their characteristics.

The winter of 1838-39 was spent by the elder Walker and his wife and Cushing Ellis and his wife at the home of Dr. Whitman. The following spring the two families removed to Tshimakain, now Walker's Prairie near Spokane, and here began the missionary work among the Spokane Indians. During his childhood ~~Walker's playmates~~ were largely Indian lads, and he learned to trust them and talk their language quite well. As a lad Walker always dressed in buckskin or some sort of hand dressed skins, usually made in overhirt and trousers. Moccasins always covered his feet, except in warm weather, when he went barefoot. It was not until 1848, after removing to the Willamette Valley, that he was provided with a pair of factory-made shoes, and factory made clothing came still later.

Early in life Walker learned to use the bow and arrow, and became a certain shot. During part of the year the family was provided with considerable of the meat obtained by the skillful use of these primitive weapons.

During the winter of 1845-46 Cyrus attended school at Dr. Whitman's mission, Andrew Rogers then being his teacher. At this time he learned the songs sung by the missionaries, which were: "Flowers, Wildwood Flowers;" "If Ever I See on Bush or Tree;" "Oh, Gloomy Pine, Thy Foliage Fadeth Never;" this last being Mrs. Whitman's favorite.

About this time the first saw mill was established above the present site of Walla Walla, in the Blue Mountains. In the spring of 1846 Dr. Whitman and others of the party, including the lad Cyrus Walker, left the mission for the saw mill, by ox team, and that same night camp was cast on the spot where now stands the Walla Walla postoffice. In the morning the oxen had disappeared and the trip was abandoned for the time.

The trips between the missions at Waiilatpu and that among the Spokanes, was made with difficulty. The trip had to be made on horseback, bare Indian trails being the only roads. Snake river had to be crossed and here Indian canoes