

Was Rev H. H. Spalding's
of Mar 8 1847, and Comments by
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"ONE OF A MILLION"
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THE

RAM'S HORN

AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY

Schlegel J M
April

AT A LONG BLAST WITH THE RAM'S HORN THE WALLS OF THE CITY SHALL FALL.
JOSHUA 6:5.

The Peoples Forum

An Open Court for Inquiry, Information and Opinion

RECOLLECTIONS OF MR. SPALDING

Editor THE RAM'S HORN:

I WAS very much interested in reading in a recent issue, "A Visit to the Nez Percés." I was well acquainted with Rev. H. H. Spalding and his wife. Several times when a mere boy I visited his mission station in company with my parents, Rev. Elkanah Walker and May R. Walker. They came out as missionaries in 1838, and with them Rev. Cushing Eells and wife, Rev. A. B. Smith and wife and Mr. Wm. H. Gray and wife. The journey was made on horseback from the Missouri River. This was two years after Whitman and Spalding came out. A company of fur trappers and mountain men were their escort.

I was born at Whitman's Mission, (Indian name, Wai-il-at-pu), Dec. 7, 1838. Messrs. Walker and Eells opened up the Spokane Mission in the spring of 1839, where they remained until the massacre of Doctor Whitman, wife and twelve others, on November 29, 1847. This broke up all our missions and compelled our removal to this Willamette Valley. I herewith send a copy of a letter I have that was written by Rev. H. H. Spalding to my father, for the first time furnished for publication. It reads as follows:

Clearwater, March 8, 1847.

My Dear Brother:—Last week I returned from Wai-il-at-pu with my children, where they have been at school under the care of Mr. Geiger, a most excellent teacher. I am pleased with their improvement. I wish your children had enjoyed the school also. Mr. Geiger, with six young men, left last week for the Willamette. Mr. Grant and family from Fort Hall, has been detained six weeks in Grand Round by snow on Blue Mountains and will have to remain much longer. It appears the boundary is settled at 49 degrees without war. Bless the Lord, Oh our souls, that He has interposed to prevent the destruction of life and the production of untold evils.

Sad news from the Applegate party. A letter from Mr. Barlow, January 2nd, informs me that about one-fourth had arrived, and they on foot, having lost everything and endured sufferings not to be named. The remainder were back 300 or 400 miles, annoyed by Indians, dying fast and when the cold set in, which was two weeks after, most nearly or quite all perish.

It seems the route is some three hundred miles further than this and through the most dangerous Indians west of the Rocky Mountains. The man who led off so many hundreds of men, women and children to be exposed to these 'desert regions' is the man who could curse us when he passed our mission, simply because we were missionaries.

This has been the severest winter as to snow, cold weather and want of grass ever known by the oldest Indians in this region. Very many horses and cattle have died. Some persons have been frozen to death. Several of my cattle and horses have died. I tremble to hear from your place. We fear you have lost all. There has been snow and cold weather for three months. For two weeks snow was over a foot deep on this valley. The 16th and 17th of January were the coldest days I have experienced in the country; think mercury would have fallen to thirty degrees below zero. Mrs. Spalding joins in Christian regards to Mrs. Walker and yourself. H. H. Spalding.

Some things perhaps need explaining. The children he tells of being at school at Dr. Whitman's were no doubt his eldest daughter, Eliza, and only son, Henry H. Eliza is the oldest living white woman born west of the Rocky Mountains and I am the oldest living white man.

Eliza Spalding Warren, as she is now known to us, was born at Clearwater (Lapwai), November 15, 1837. She now lives in the state of Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Whitman had a daughter born March 14, 1837, Alice C., who was drowned in the Walla Walla River June 22, 1838. She was the first white child born west of the Rockies. There were three white boys born previous to my birth, but all died in infancy. The treaty Mr. Spalding speaks of was that between the United States and Great Britain, June 15, 1846, settling our northern boundary. The belated emigrants were evidently those who took the "Applegate route," as known on this coast, that led off through the Malheur country in south-

eastern Oregon, and coming into southern Oregon, instead of coming by Fort Boise, the Grand Ronde Valley and across the Cascade Mountains by the "Barlow's Gate" route, just south of Mt. Hood, into the Willamette Valley.

I remember that hard winter spoken of. The snow at our mission was four feet deep. We managed to save most of our horses and cattle. The Indians lost nearly all their horses.

My father, Elkanah Walker, was born one hundred years ago today, at North Yarmouth, Me. He died Nov. 20, 1877. My mother died December 5, 1897. Born at Baldwin, Me., April 1, 1811. She was the last one of the early missionaries to pass from earth to Heaven. Cyrus H. Walker.

Albany, Oregon. Aug 7 1905

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