

### **Whitworth Oregon Trail Party:**

**John Carson** was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania in 1828. His family moved to Perry County, Indiana in 1843 where he farmed. In 1851 he married **Emma Lane Darrow** in Cannelton, Perry County, IN, the sister of Mrs. Edmund Richardson. They had a nine month old son, Frank Carson, when they began their Oregon Trail trip. Carson joined Rev. Whitworth at St. Joseph, MO in May 1853. The Carsons left the Whitworth party after crossing the Blue Mountains and joined the Wright-Longmire party to be with the first party across Naches Pass to Pierce County, WA. His mother-in-law, **Mrs. Harriet Darrow**, joined them when Edmund and Mary Ann Richardson, left for Salt Lake City after South Pass (Wyoming). Mrs. Darrow lived in Olympia and died in 1870.

In WT Carson farmed, had a ferry and tollbridge across the Puyallup River, just north of Puyallup. He was the first postmaster of Franklin (later Sumner) and his wife the first teacher. In 1868 she was a charter member of the Puyallup branch of the Steilacoom Presbyterian Church (later Sumner Presbyterian Church). By 1884 he was a mill owner in Tacoma. He served in the territorial legislature and was a Pierce County commissioner for 15 years. Three children were born in WT. His wife died in 1889 and he in 1896. Their legacy is a chestnut tree, which is located on their former property just north of the Meridian Street Bridge in Puyallup. They are probably buried in the Sumner Cemetery, however the cemetery records are incomplete.

**Clark Hay** was a blacksmith in Springdale, 15 miles north of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. He was born there in 1817 and married **Clara Belle Burgess** (born 1822) in 1847. Their first two children, Eveline age 4 and Ida 2, were born in Ohio. The Hay family joined Rev. Whitworth near Savannah, Andrew County, MO in May 1853. They settled first near Clatsop Plains. Mrs. Hay died after childbirth in May 1854 near the current Warrenton, OR. Her burial location is unknown. The newborn daughter, Clara Hay, was placed with the David E. Pease (1820-1896) family of Clatsop County that adopted her in December 1856. Several years later the Peases also adopted a boy, Cyrus Taylor. Clark Hay returned to Portland in 1855 where he was a successful blacksmith and later he organized an insurance company. He married Josephine Burch in 1865 and a son, Vaughn, who was born in 1869. His first two daughters were raised with other families in Portland. Daughter Ida married Charles A. Perkins in 1870 and they had one daughter. Lucy Eveline Hay was single. Clara Hay Pease married a Mr. Charles H. Parker in February 1867. Their daughter was born in June 1879 and her husband died that November. Mr. Hay died in 1906 and is buried in the Lone Pine Pioneer Cemetery in East Portland.

**Samuel Mowder** was born 1833 in Ohio. He was a bachelor from Clark County, Ohio. He joined Rev. Whitworth near Savannah, Andrew County, Missouri May 13, 1853. After arriving in Oregon he first went to Salem and by 1855 was in Jackson County, OR, possibly with a relation, Peter Mowder, who was 12 years older. September 2, 1857 he married **Mary E. Pitney** at her family home at Grand Prairie (now Meadow View), Lane

County, OR. Rev. Robert Robe, the Presbyterian pastor, from nearby Eugene officiated. In 1860 Mowder is listed as a merchant in Jacksonville, OR. He was living in 1865 and is presumed to have died shortly thereafter. The Mowders had three children: Ida E. born in 1858, Frank in 1860 and Katie born in 1864. Mary E. Mowder married Benjamin Reed in Portland in April 1869 and had another daughter, Elmira Reed, in May 1870. Mary Mowder Reed may have died in Sept. 1880, however her burial site is unknown. Her son, Frank Mowder died Sept. 1881 and is buried in the Caldwell Cemetery, near Junction City. Ida Mowder married John Stagner in Missouri in 1878. Kate Mowder's history remains a mystery. Elmira (Mary Belle) Reed was in MO in 1882.

**John Pitney** was born in Knox County, Ohio in 1811. In 1834 he married **Elizabeth Wayland** in Licking County, OH. He was a machinist and manufacturer of drawers and furniture in Fayette, Howard County, Missouri. His family states that his brother had preceded him to Oregon in 1848. He had corresponded with Whitworth by letter and they met May 13, 1853 near Savannah, Andrews County, MO. Pitney had five children at this time: Malvina 17, Mary 15, Sara 13, Joel 11 and William 4. They spent the winter of 1853-54 in eastern Oregon, near the current Pendleton and the next two years in Salem. He took a donation land claim near Junction City, Lane County, OR where he farmed and was a carpenter. Pitney joined the Presbyterian Church of Eugene (now Central Presbyterian Church) in 1855 and was an elder in 1865. He died Feb. 6, 1866. Mrs. Pitney was the only woman of the group to deliver on the trail. She gave birth to Clementine R. Pitney on August 6, 1853, near Soda Springs, Idaho. One son, Marcellus, was born in Oregon. Mrs. Pitney died Sept. 18, 1878 and is buried with her husband in the Caldwell Cemetery near Junction City, OR. A portion of the original farm is still farmed by the family.

**Edmund Richardson** was born 1816 in Mt. Holly, Vermont and raised a Baptist. He was a wagon maker. In 1840 he married **Mary Ann Darrow** in Hebron, Washington County, NY. In 1846 they joined the Presbyterian Church in VT, which caused division in the family. In 1848 they moved to Cannelton, IN where they both worked in the mill. He was a deacon and trustee of the Presbyterian Church with Rev. Whitworth. Mrs. Richardson made the cotton tops for the Richardson and Carson wagons, at the Cannelton Cotton Mill, then the largest mill west of the Appalachian Mountains. Mrs. Richardson was a sister to Mrs. Carson. They had two children: Emma Lynette born 1841 in NY and George Alvin b 1846 in VT.

May 4, 1853 they met Rev. Whitworth at St. Joseph, MO, with John Carson. July 26, 1853 Richardson family left the wagon party in current Wyoming for Salt Lake City, owing to the weakness of their team. Mrs. Richardson's mother, Harriet Darrow, traveled with them until they left for Utah, when she joined the Carsons for Oregon. The Richardsons took 27 days to cover the next 160 miles to West Jordan, UT where she worked in the Gaunt's carding mill and he in Archibald Gardiner's flour mill. October 13, 1853 they were baptized into the LDS church and ten days later they met Patriarch John Smith in Salt Lake City. In December Brigham Young sent him to Sanpete (Manti) and on February 11, 1854 he was ordained an apostle of the Seventies under the hands of Nelson Higgins. Two more sons, Charles Edmund was born 1858 and Sullivan Calvin

1861 in Utah. Edmund died March 27, 1874 and Mary Ann January 13, 1872 and they are buried in Springville, Utah.

**Rev. George F. Whitworth** was born March 15, 1816 in Boston, Lincolnshire, England. His family came to Rochester, NY in 1828. A year later they moved to Mansfield, Richland County, OH for three years. Here George learned the trade of harness and saddle making. In 1831 they moved to Terre Haute, IN where he finished his schooling in 1833. His parents had been staunch Baptists, but later were members of the First Presbyterian Church, where his father was an elder. His father was involved, as Whitworth and Isaacs, in shoe manufacturing in Terre Haute. George attended and graduated in the fifth class of Hanover College in 1838, as one of the 15 graduates. That year he married Mary Elizabeth Thomson (1818-1890) near Greensburg, Decatur County, IN. She had three brothers that also attended Hanover and New Albany Seminary.

Whitworth taught school in Lancaster, Fairfield County, OH for one year and then in Charleston, Clark County, IN for three years where he also studied law. On the 1840 census he is shown in Marion Township, Shelby County, Indiana. In 1840 their first child, James, was born. Whitworth was admitted to the bar and in 1842 was county attorney in Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio. In 1843 he practiced law in Charleston, IN and was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Here their second child, Harry, was born and died 15 months later.

In 1844 he enrolled in New Albany Seminary, New Albany, IN. They most probably attended the First Presbyterian Church in New Albany. In 1846 the third child, Frederick H., was born. In 1859 the seminary moved to Chicago and later became McCormick Seminary.

In 1846 Whitworth was a licentiate in Presbytery of Salem, Synod of Indiana. June 30, 1848 he was ordained by Presbytery of New Albany. Their fourth child, John Mathews Whitworth, was born August 1848. Whitworth served May 1849-May 1850 as pastor of the nearby Corydon Presbyterian Church, Corydon, Franklin Co., Indiana. From 1849-1853 he was stated supply pastor in Cannelton, Perry Co., Indiana. Here he built a frame church at Fourth and Adams, adjacent the Cannelton Mill. Mrs. Whitworth opened a select school and was assisted by Rev. Whitworth. The church at Cannelton had 12 families and 21 members in 1851 and 18 members in 1852. 14 are recorded in 1853. The church failed in about 1855 and was used as a school and later by the African Methodists for 30 years.

Whitworth while in Cannelton also served across the Ohio River at Hawesville, Hancock County, KY, in 1849-1852, however no church listing has been found. The fifth child, Clara, was born in Cannelton April 1, 1851. In Cannelton he was also lecturing about electricity.

Leaving Missouri in May 1853 they arrived in Portland, OR in October 1853. They spent the winter in Portland. January 1, 1854 Rev. Whitworth was involved in the organization of the First Presbyterian Church of Portland with Rev. J. S. Yantis, D.D.. Four of the ten charter members were Mrs. Whitworth, her mother and her two nieces.

Whitworth settled on a claim north of Olympia in the spring of 1854. He began to preach in the spring and organized the First Presbyterian Church of Olympia in November 1854 (now known as the United Churches of Olympia) with seven members. Three of the

members were from the Whitworth family. One of the nieces had died the previous month of typhoid fever in Olympia.

In Sept. 1858 the Presbytery of Puget Sound was organized with three pastors, but it was never fully recognized, in part, as three ministers were the minimum necessary for a frontier presbytery. Several early Presbyterian ministers died shortly after arriving in Washington. The presbytery was re-organized in 1876. Rev. Whitworth was involved in preaching and organizing Presbyterian churches from Chehalis to Whidbey Island. He served as president of the Territorial University twice and was moderator of both presbytery and synod. In 1883 Sumner Academy was organized and in 1890 it was renamed Whitworth College.

Rev. George Whitworth finally had his churches and his Presbyterian school after thirty years in the territory of Washington. Rev. Whitworth died Oct. 7, 1906, at age 91 and was buried at Lake View Cemetery.

In the spring of 1982 the Washington State Historical Society named Rev. George Whitworth as one of the first ten citizens of Washington to be honored in the state Hall of Honor. September 17, 1985 was proclaimed the "George Fredrick Whitworth Day" in Seattle. In a ceremony that day his grave was designated a Presbyterian Historical site (#252).