

HOBSON-WHITNEY CEMETERY UP-DATE

In the Oct. 1977 issue of BEAVER BRIEFS (Vol IX, No.4) pg. 68, there was an admittedly incomplete listing of the known burials in the old Hobson-Whitney Cemetery. It has also been known as the SUBLIMITY GRAVE YARD in the Marion County Deeds. In May of 1963, May Neitling of Stayton wrote about some of the old cemeteries around the Stayton area mentioning 47 different burial plots had been located, some with only single burials. Her comments on HOBSON-WHITNEY CEMETERY were followed up with some action to clean up, and more history in later news articles in the STAYTON MAIL. What follows is an abstract of comments about HOBSON-WHITNEY:

Memorial Day seems a particularly fitting time to tell of the Absolom Greenstreet family, for it was the Greenstreets who gave this plot as a burial site for their own family and the families of their pioneer neighbors who were settling this area.

The Greenstreets came to Oregon in 1851 at a time when the Indians were becoming alarmed by the loss of their hunting grounds. Matilda Greenstreet, then about 20, was assigned the task of riding horseback about two miles behind the train herding the loose stock.

Thus engaged one day she heard bloodcurdling whoops of the savages and found herself completely surrounded by 47 Indians. The cattle she was herding stampeded, there was nothing else to do, so she dismounted and faced the Indians defying them to kill her. They rode in a circle around her brandishing tomahawks, which passed so close to her head she could hear the air swish. When they tired of this the chief rode up and slapped her on the shoulders and said "Brave squaw." He then lifted her in his arms and tossed her to a brave, and then on to another, and saying as he tossed her, "Brave squaw." This continued until the Indians tired and moved ahead of the girl toward the wagon train. Here a rather humorous incident occurred that will be told in a later installment of this series.

The register of St. Boniface church was opened on Dec. 3, 1879 when Fr. Peter Juvenal Stampfl, a missionary priest signed the register. The register noted that the first two burials were "in the Protestant Cemetery at Sublimity," confirming the fact as noted in a recent article that the east section of this protestant cemetery had been used for Catholic burials.

RENOVATION OF ANCIENT SUBLIMITY CEMETERY SET

A general cleanup of the Hobson-Whitney cemetery, a mile east of Sublimity, is planned in the near future. Presently the cemetery is a mass of brush, berry bushes and fallen trees, and in places a machete would be standard equipment for getting through the plot.

Edward Miotke, whose land adjoins the cemetery on the north and west, recently appeared before the Sublimity City Council and suggested that the burial grounds be cleaned up. Public Welfare Department labor is available for the project providing there is a governmental unit willing to take the responsibility of sponsoring the program. The Sublimity Council consented to sponsor the cleanup. This is a very old cemetery and most burials were made at about the time of the Civil War, and a number earlier.

A few of the plots are in good shape, most notably the Arthur plot, but many are in a sad state of repair. Many of the tombstones have fallen and are covered with dirt and moss. A large number are so camouflaged by vegetation that they are not readily visible. Mrs. Edmund Klecker and Warren Hill of The Mail staff visited the cemetery Friday morning, and they advise hiking clothes for anyone visiting the place. Mrs. Klecker's nylons were ruined within five minutes of entering the grounds.

Tombstones discovered during the visit to the cemetery were the following:

Gibson ARTHUR, bom Aug. 17, 1826 (no date of death recorded) and his wife, Lydia, born Dec.

5, 1847 and died June 17, 1900.

Eddie ARTHUR, Feb. 14, 1882-Feb. 20, 1883;
Annie ARTHUR, June 22, 1880-Feb. 7, 1881;
Infant Davy, three weeks old, died Feb. 5, 1868;
all children of Gibson ARTHUR.

A headstone with just the name Ferman on it.

Sarah S., daughter of W. C. and P. A. MILLER,
Nov. 15, 1855-Nov. 30, 1862.

A plot of the BENSON family covered by a
concrete slab. William BENSON, 1890, is
showing and other markings, BENSON 1884, and
BENSGN 1882, covered by several inches of
moss.

G. W. HENLINE, bom March 18, 1853, and died
Feb. 14, 1905. Abi HENLINE, bom in Gallia
Coiinty, Chio on May 15, 1818, and died on June
10, 1891. The latter contained the following
verse, "Rest mother .in thy quiet sleep, while
friends in sorrow over thee weep."

Five tombstones of the BROOKS family. John B.
BROOKS, died Nov. 5, 1864, aged 14; Dorothy
BROOKS died Dec. 17, 1864, aged 17; Mary
BROOKS, died April 12, 1871, aged 18 years;
Joycie, wife of W. W. BROOKS, died Aug. 23,
1870, aged 51; W. H. BROOKS, died Jan. 12,
1871, aged 29.

Livonia, daughter of J. S. and M. B. BIGGER,
died June 2, 1860, age 41. Mary L., daughter of
B. T. and V. BIGGER, age 7 years, died Dec. 30,
1865. John P. BIGGERS, died Sept. 13, 1868,
aged 14 years, 7 months.

A stone containing a weeping willow tree had the
inscription, James M. PERRY, died Nov. 14,
1860, aged 46 years, 2 months.

Melissa J., wife of Geo. W. CADY, died Aug. 18,
1864, age 22 years, 11 months.

The Elder A. Beebe stone was one of many alitost
completely covered by moss and other debris.
Bom in New York on June 2, 1815, died June 5,
1879. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give

unto you."

Moses Mc. SMITH, born Oswego, N.Y. , Dec. 21,
1836-Oct. 25, 1865. Aaron A. SMITH, died June
30, 1865. Born in 1799, 66 years old.

Mrs. May Neitling has supplied us with some
information concerning the cemetery and the
people buried there. She reports that the last chief
of the Santiam Indians was buried in the
northwest comer of the cemetery near a large old
maple tree that has been struck by lightning
several times.

The Santiam tribe lived along the North Santiam
river and the last remnants of the tribe were
moved to Grand Ronde in 1906.

Several members of the LAMBERT, NEIBERT
and PIETROK families are buried in the
cemetery. One of the graves is that of Elder
BEEBE, the first of the Hard Shelled Baptist
Church in Oregon.

A husband and wife named BENSON came to
Oregon between 1842-47 and landed in Oregon
City. Mrs. BENSON was ill with lung fever. They
journeyed down into the Willamette Valley and
into the Sublimity area.

They found a spring in a pretty location, and a
deer came to drink at the place. BENSON was
reported to have said, "We have found water to
drink and food both to eat and for the soul."

The BENSONs survived the winter and by the
following spring he was the possessor of two
silver dollars and one pair of shoes. His wife's
condition worsened and BENSON went by foot to
Oregon City to consult a doctor and secure
medicine for his wife. The effort was to no avail,
however, and Mrs. BENSON died and was laid to
rest in the cemetery. He later married a daughter
of Absolom GREENSTREET.

The GREENS'i'REETs donated the land for the
cemetery, although the recorded name of the
grounds is HOBSON-WHITNEY. The
GREENSTREETs had seven daughters and one
son. All of the girls were more than six feet tall.

One of them became the grandmother of Raleigh HAROLD.

A trust fund, called the Hobson-Whitney Cemetery Trust is being started at the Stayton Branch of the U. S. National Bank. The money will be used for care and maintenance of the cemetery and any amount, large or small, is acceptable.

First donors were Adrian HERMENS, Raleigh HAROLD, Vincent HERTZ, William KIMBALL, Roy PHILIPPI, Fred GRAHAM, and Ray BOEDIGHEIMER.

“In the restoration and maintenance of these cemeteries we are opening a history book of pioneer Oregon for our children and their children,” Mrs. Neitling stated.

DISEASES OF CHILDHOOD TOOK TOLL IN EARLY DAYS

An article in last week's Stayton Mail concerning the proposed clean-up of the Hobson-Whitney Cemetery near Sublimity elicited many almost forgotten memories among people of the area. From those memories have come the answers to some questions asked in the article and more questions that it is hoped will soon be answered.

The cement covering with the dates 1882-1884-1890 marks the graves of three of the nine children of Charles and Matilda Greenstreet BENSON. The date 1882 marks the grave of Ferman, whose burial spot also contains the stone with just the name “Ferman” on it. He died on April 21, 1882, the victim of measles. On his way home he had to cross a creek that was high and cold and with youthful enthusiasm waded the stream rather than going to a “farther piece” to a log that crossed the water. The measles “went back in” and pioneer medicine could not save him.

In 1884 is Katie, a victim of scarlet fever, almost unknown now, but during that particular winter in Oregon it took many lives, including three of the GLOVER children, neighbors of the BENSONS. The GLOVERS are buried in the small and beautiful GLOVER family cemetery north of

Sublimity. 1890 is William; whose death occurred on March 21 from a gunshot wound.

We learned that in its early years the east end of the cemetery was the Catholic cemetery, separated from the burial plot of pioneer protestants by a lane. The first burial in the Catholic cemetery adjacent to St. Boniface Church in Sublimity was on April 2, 1880.

We also learned that among pioneers we did not find in the brief time we had to visit this cemetery were LAMBERT, BRANCH, CALDWELL, GREENSTREET, HOBSON, DOWNEY, SCHELBERG, NEIBERT, DARBY, PIETROK, and there are many more undoubtedly.

Here is a glimpse of pioneer life that we thought delightful that was told us incidental to the Hobson-Whitney Cemetery story. Easter at the BENSONS was eagerly looked forward to by all the neighboring families. Mrs. BENSON always had many chickens and she prepared Easter eggs so that every child went home with many treasured souvenirs of the Easter bunny's visit. There was neighborly visiting, games for young and old, and an old fashioned wonderful day was enjoyed.

Here is a glimpse in which all participants will have to be nameless - several told us with sparkles in their eyes that in their day Hobson-Whitney Cemetery was a favorite “hide out” for those, who against parental warning, teacher's advice and wisdom, chose to “cut school.”

There was then an old shed on the cemetery grounds and a thin wisp of smoke could have been seen by the observant. A visitor to the cemetery could have heard the sounds of cards being dealt and youthful voices making wagers on the hands they held.

A trust fund is underway at the Stayton Branch, U.S. National Bank, to provide funds for the upkeep of the cemetery and everyone is invited to contribute.

In September of 1979 a drive to clean-up the

cemetery was underway again. In the clean-up more stones were uncovered and relatives of people buried there indicated that several were unmarked. There is more that needs to be done but research has been carried out on some of the families. The following are additions to the list published in Oct. of 1977:

ARTHUR, Gibson
b. Aug. 17, 1826
d. (not given)

ARTHUR, Lydia (LAKEY)
b. Dec. 5, 1847
d. June 17, 1900

ARTHUR, Edie
b. Feb. 14, 1882
d. Feb. 20, 1883

ARTHUR, Annie
b. June 22, 1880
d. Feb. 7, 1881

ARTHUR, Davy
age 3 weeks
infant dau. of Gibson & Lydia
Feb. 5, 1868

ASHBY, Catherine
wife of John ASHBY
d. Sept. 17, 1867
aged 85 yrs 6 mo 13 days

BENSON, Matilda (GREENSTREET)
b. (8 June)1829
d. (3 or 23 March) 1900 (2nd wife of Charles BENSON)

BENSON, Charles
b. (10 May) 1815 (in Va.)
d. (8 May) 1902

BENSON, Charles H(enry)
b. 1859
d. 1935
(son of Charles & Matilda)

(BENSON, Caroline Rudolph)
b. (abt. 1826 in Penn.)
(dau. of John RUDOLPH)

(1st wife of Charles BENSON)
d. (before 1852)

BERRY, Jane (?-EDDON)
b. June 26, 1849
d. June 22, 1896
(a Montgomery P. BERRY married
14 Dec. 1872 at the home of J. F.
Fairens, J.P. in Multnomah Co. Or.
to Jane EDDON according to Marion
County Marriage Records. A John EDDON,
also buried in Hobson-Whitney Cemetery,
is dead by May 18, 1872.)

BROWN, Almena
Wife of James Davis BROWN
d. Mar. 2, 1863
aged 23 yrs, 10 mos, 19 days.

(DILLARD, Charles Henry, Jr.
b. Oct. 13, 1941
d. Dec. 18, 1941
twin to Sharon Dillard BOLEN
of Albany, Oregon)

HUTTON, Oliff A.
son of B. & G. L. HUTTON
d. Nov. 20, 1865
aged 1 yr, 3 mos., 24 days

KENOYER, Alice
dau. of J. & E.
d. Oct. 11, 1863, aged 4 yrs 7 mos.
RABENS, H(erman), H(erman) and M(argaret)
three stones - no dates.