

## Historic Oregon City

Oregon City has a history of human settlement dating back over 3,000 years, when Native Americans camped near the Willamette River falls. In the late 1820s, former hunters, trappers and explorers of the powerful British fur-trading operation — the Hudson's Bay Company — settled near the falls with the help of Dr. John McLoughlin, chief factor of the Company. They moved on, but McLoughlin persisted in establishing a foothold in the area, and had a sawmill and flour mill built near the falls, making use of the first water power in Oregon City. Hudson's Bay Company employees buried in Mountain View Cemetery include physician Forbes Barclay and explorer Peter Skene Ogden.

In the 1840s, small companies of Americans began to arrive in the Willamette Valley, via the Oregon Trail. In an attempt to forestall an American claim to the area, McLoughlin had Oregon City platted by Sidney Moss, who had arrived with a group of settlers in 1842. Moss is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery here. However, in 1843, the region's settlers voted to establish a provisional government under the United States, and two years later an Oregon City merchant, George Abernethy, became the first provisional governor and Oregon City the first provisional seat of government for what was to become the Oregon Territory. Many early pioneers of the 1840s who established donation land claims in the area are buried in Mountain View Cemetery, including William Barlow (1845), Robert and Jane Caufield (1847), Peter Rinearson, and L.D.C. Latourette.

By 1846, Oregon City had some seventy houses and over five-hundred inhabitants. In that year the first newspaper west of the Missouri River, *The Oregon Spectator*, was published in Oregon City; the members of the Masonic fraternity organized the first lodge west of the Mississippi, and the first American flag owned by the provisional government was raised.

In 1849 General Joseph Lane, appointed the first Territorial Governor by President Polk, was inaugurated at the Rose Farm, home of William L. Holmes, who is buried in the Masonic Cemetery. Oregon City was designated as the territory's first capital, and continued as such until 1852, when the seat of government was moved to Salem.

California's gold rush of 1848 spurred Oregon City's development through the demand for flour, wheat and timber. This growth encouraged an influx of additional settlers, some of whom had first tried their luck in the gold fields to the south. Among these settlers and merchants were Charles Pope (1851), Colonel W.L. White (1850), Charles Ganong (1859), and William Whitlock.

In 1849 Absolom Hedges platted the town of Canemah on his donation land claim, just south of Oregon City. It became a major boat-building center on the Willamette River and served as a portage point around the falls. Development of river traffic drew boatbuilders and steamboat captains to the area, including Captain John T. Apperson, George Pease and Peter Paquet, all of whom, along with Hedges, are buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

Oregon City's modern industrial base dates from 1864, when the Jacob brothers established a woolen mill (now the site of Publisher's Paper Company). Two years later W.W. Buck, buried in the Masonic Cemetery, built the first modern paper mill, initiating the city's most important industry. The first long-distance commercial electric power transmission in the United States began operation in 1889 between Oregon City and Portland: one of the investors was George Harding, also buried in the Masonic Cemetery.

The history of the city, created by its people, is still visible in the many old houses and structures dotting the bluffs and lining the river. Many of the pioneers and settlers who contributed so much energy to the development of the Pacific Northwest now rest here, in Mountain View Cemetery.

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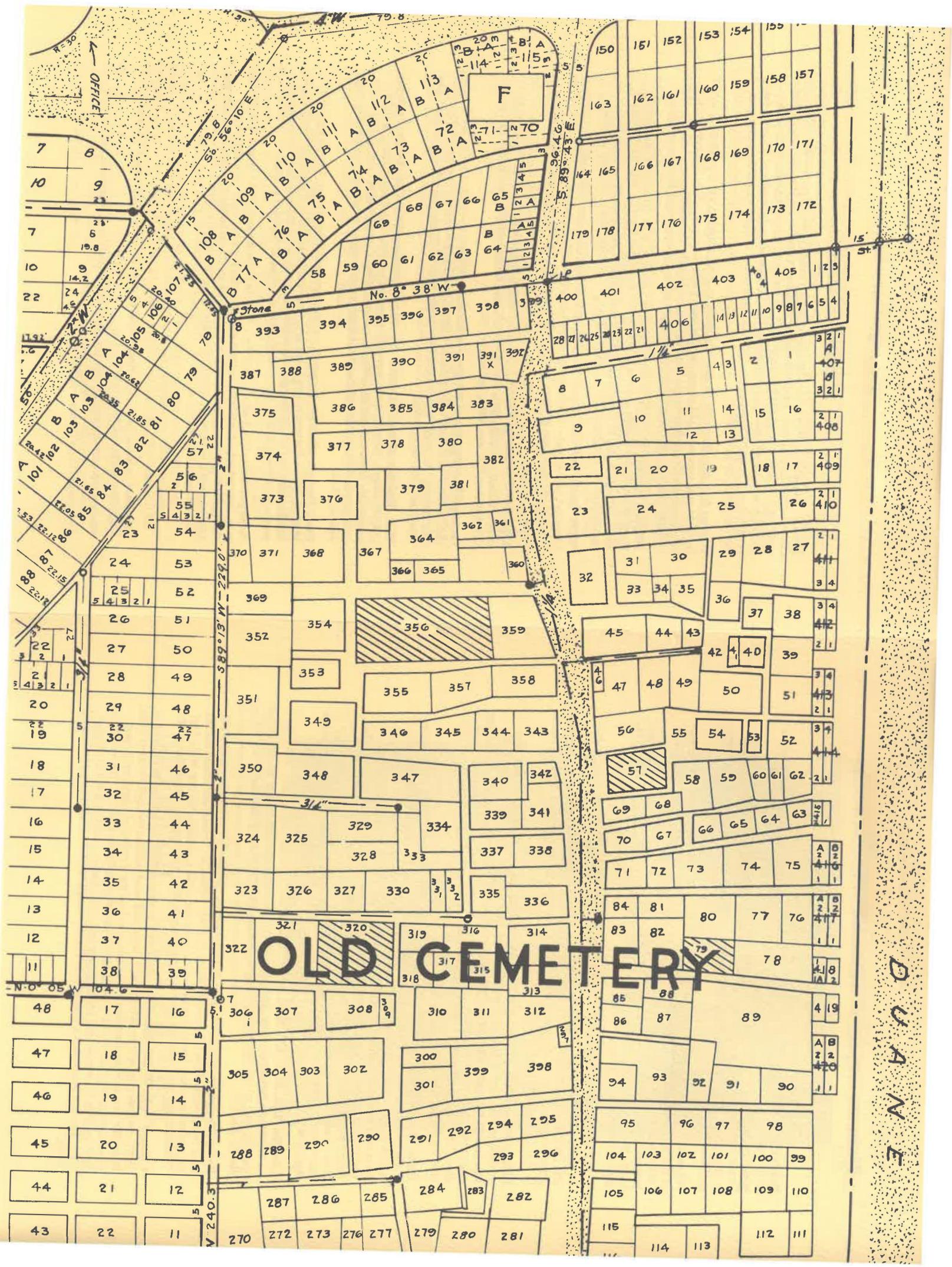


*"Show me the manner in which a Nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals."*  
— William Gladstone, 1809-1898

## Mountain View Cemetery

A Tour of Graves  
of Early Pioneers





# Pioneers Graves of Mountain View Cemetery

## Pioneer ("Old") Cemetery

**Robert Caufield.** *Block 57.* Born in 1805 in Ireland, he arrived in the United States in 1832 and emigrated to Oregon with his wife, Jane, in 1847. They established a donation land claim on the outskirts of Oregon City, and operated a store on Main Street, which Jane ran as her husband became increasingly involved in public life. Robert served as the county's first judge after Oregon became a state. He died in 1891, and Jane in 1899.

**Absolom F. Hedges.** *Block 144.* Hedges played a significant role in the development of the Willamette Valley, through his establishment of Canemah, an early riverboat community on the Willamette River several miles south of Oregon City, which he platted in 1849. He and several partners built *The Canemah*, one of the first steamboats to ply the upper river, and established a number of other businesses in Canemah. He died in 1890.

**L.D.C. Latourette.** *Block 356.* Born in 1825, he settled a donation land claim on the outskirts of Oregon City and operated a store on Main Street. Two of his sons, Charles and DeWitt Clinton, also buried here, co-founded the Bank of Oregon City. Charles also served as mayor of Oregon City and DeWitt was a city attorney and councilman. L.D.C. Latourette died in 1886.

**Sidney Moss.** *Block 223.* Born in Kentucky in 1810, he was an early pioneer who arrived in Oregon City in 1842, when he surveyed it for Dr. John McLoughlin. A stonemason by trade, Moss participated in a number of early city enterprises, and has been credited with establishing "the first hotel west of the Rocky Mountains" and also "the first store west of the Rockies," (excluding the Hudson's Bay Company stores). He died in 1901.

**Peter Skene Ogden.** *Block 79.* A significant figure in the history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, he is particularly associated with the Hudson's Bay Company, which he served for many years. One of the period's greatest explorers, he is generally credited with being the first white man to venture into central Oregon, finding passage over the Cascade mountain range and leading expeditions into the Snake River country. He was successor to McLoughlin as chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and later ransomed the survivors of the Whitman Massacre at the missionary's station near Walla Walla Washington in 1847. He died here in 1854 at the age of 60.

**Charles Pope.** *Block 320.* Born in 1807, he arrived in Oregon City in 1851, where he established a hardware store, and later 'Pope and Company,' an enterprise with his son. He was a leading Oregon City Methodist, and served as Oregon City treasurer. He died in 1871.

**Peter Rinearson.** *Block 163.* Born in Ohio in 1818, he settled his donation land claim near the mouth of the Clackamas River in 1845, where he farmed and raised horses. He and his brother, Jacob, a major in the Oregon Cavalry, established one of the first ferries in the area, and the first state fair was held on his property. He died in 1889.

**Colonel W.L. White.** *Block 200.* Born in Virginia in 1819, he arrived in Oregon in 1850, and became active in territorial, state and local politics throughout most of his later life. By 1854 he had been appointed clerk of the Territorial Legislature, and continued as chief clerk of the Oregon legislature in the 1860s and '70s. He opened the first hotel in Canemah and later operated the Cliff House, a major hotel in Oregon City. He was appointed a Clackamas County judge in 1874, a position he held until 1890.

## Masonic Cemetery

**John T. Apperson.** *Block 23.* Born in Kentucky in 1834, he was a member of the Oregon State Legislature, a state senator and a Clackamas County sheriff in the 1870s and 1880s. After arriving in Oregon in 1847, he operated a steamboat for some years, and later became a farmer and president of the Oregon State Agricultural Society and the Oregon Pioneers Association. Prior to his death in 1917 he served as registrar in the Oregon City land office.

**Forbes Barclay.** *Block 26.* Born in Scotland in 1812, Barclay was a prominent pioneer who served as physician and surgeon for the Hudson's Bay Company in the 1830s and 1840s, and settled in Oregon City in the late '40s, where he served as city coroner, mayor, city school superintendent and city councilman. He died in 1873.

**William Barlow.** *Block 16.* Son of Samuel K. Barlow, who established the Barlow Road between the Dalles and Oregon City, he arrived in Oregon with his parents in 1845 and was active in a number of early enterprises, including investment in the steamship *The Canemah* and in the Oregon City Woolen Mills. He died in 1904.

**W.W. Buck.** *Block 65.* A prominent early investor in a paper mill, built in 1866 in Oregon City, and also co-owner of a sawmill on the Clackamas River with H.L. Pittock. He was born in New York in 1804, arrived in Oregon in 1845, and died in 1886.

**Charles W. Ganong.** *Block 62.* Born in Canada in 1837, he arrived in Oregon in 1859, settling in Canemah where he worked as a blacksmith. He served as Clackamas County sheriff in the 1890s and died in 1904.

**George Harding.** *Block 127.* Born in Australia in 1843, he arrived in Oregon City in 1857, where he owned and operated a drug store and invested in a number of other enterprises, including the Oregon City Bank, and the Willamette Falls Electric Light Company. He died in 1926.

**W.L. Holmes.** *Block 17.* Born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1807, he arrived in Oregon in 1843, where he settled his donation land claim on the outskirts of Oregon City, eventually known as the Rose Farm, the site of the first territorial address and inauguration. He served as sheriff of Clackamas County in the 1840s and 1850s, and died in 1879.

**Peter Paquet.** *Block 88.* Born in St. Louis in 1839, son of Francis X. Paquet, a Hudson's Bay Company employee and later a boatbuilder in Canemah. Peter was a boatbuilder and bridge builder, served three terms in the Oregon State Legislature, and was an Oregon City mayor and city councilman. He died in 1896.

**George Pease.** *Block 46.* Born in New York in 1830, he arrived in Oregon in 1850. He was a prominent steamboat captain and steamboat owner, and a principal in the People's Transportation Company, which ran steamers on the Willamette River. He later served a term as Oregon City councilman. He died in 1919.

Researched, written and designed by **Patricia Erigero**, under the direction of the Oregon City Planning Department: **Cathy Galbraith**, Director

Special thanks to George Edwards, who served at Mountain View Cemetery from 1946-1984.

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