

Oroville Daily Register

5-16-1921

OVER 200 ATTEND OREGON CITY PICNIC

Over two hundred residents and former residents of Oregon City gathered at the annual picnic held near the Oregon City school house last Saturday, where a program in which several local people took part, was enjoyed. The picnickers who hold their annual outing on the second Saturday of each May, gathered beneath the shade of mammoth pines early in the day, the party breaking up late in the afternoon.

James P. Logue, a former Oregon City resident, but now of Chico, was elected president for the 1922 picnic.

Among those who took part in the program were: Gordon Nisbet, James Nisbet and Mrs. Rachel Hengy, of Oroville; Mrs. W. Bartley, of Thermalito; "Montana Jack," a buckaroo, who took part in the recent Chico Round-Up; Thomas Davis, Dick Johnson, Mrs. Elise Forbes, Thomas Johnson and Irl Jones of Oregon City.

The picnic was followed in the evening with a grand ball held in the Oregon City school house.

Oroville Daily Register

8-7-1923

SCHOOL DISTRICT CHANGES ARE SUGGESTED

County Superintendent of Schools Nielsen presented the following recommendation relative to school districts yesterday.

Little Chico School District—Recommended that it be declared lapsed, and territory divided between Chico, Diamondville and Centerville school districts.

Reservoir School District—Recommended that it be declared lapsed and added to Concow school district.

Oregon City School District—Recommended that it be declared lapsed and added to the Cherokee school district.

Forbestown School District—Recommended that declaration lapsing the district go over for a year.

Kunkle School District—Recommended that it be re-established.

Nimshew and DeSable School Districts—Recommended that Nimshew district be lapsed and added to De Sabla district; that Nimshew schoolhouse be moved to a new location to serve both districts.

North Point School District and Grafton School District—Asked that hearing on the formation of a joint district be set for Monday, August 27th.

The recommendations were taken under advisement.



BAINBRIDGE, Worth

Sacramento Bee

10-3-1929

YUBA PIONEER DIES AT OREGON CITY

CHICO (Butte Co.), Oct. 3.—W. Bainbridge, pioneer resident of Yuba County since the covered wagon days and father of Mayor S. L. Bainbridge of Chico, died Tuesday at his home in Oregon City, east of Oroville.

He was born in Iowa in 1846 and crossed the plains with his parents in a wagon train when two years old.

The family settled at Paulinesville, Yuba County, now known as Rackerby, on a tract his father took up in 1848. Only last year he moved to Oregon City.

Survivors are three sons, Stephen L. of Chico, Charles and William L. of Bangor; four daughters, Mrs. Kate Russell and Mrs. D. Dodge, both of Hurlston; Mrs. Lillian Duensing of Oregon City, and Mrs. Mary E. Metz of Chico; three brothers, A. P. Bainbridge, Oliver and Breckenridge Bainbridge, all living on the original homestead, and one sister, Mrs. Cynthia Hoagland of Lakeview, Ore.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock to-morrow, with interment in Upham Cemetery.

5-12-1931

OREGON CITY PIONEERS HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), May 12. Officers for the Oregon City Schoolmates Club were elected Sunday when the fourteenth annual Oregon City picnic was held at the school house of the lapsed district.

The officers are:

Frank James, president; Nite Cole, vice president; Gordon Nisbet, secretary and Archie Hengy, treasurer. Trustees are James G. Nisbet, Frank Logue and Henry W. White.

About 100 former schoolmates or residents of the early mining district were present from various sections of the state. San Jose, Vacaville, Sacramento and Fair Oaks were represented. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nisbet and son were present from Colorado.

EXCITING FAMILY LIFE OF WM. JAMES RECOUNTED; 5 CHILDREN PURCHASE BRICKS FOR PARENTS

Two Pioneer Memorial Bricks to be placed in the relics hall here were taken out in the name of William James who came to California in 1850 and one in the name of his wife, Mrs. Katherine James who arrived in California in 1856. These bricks were taken out by the five children now living, Mrs. Lucy Ann Mengler and Miss Maggie James of Thermalito, Mrs. Katie Marie Tegrunde of Oroville, Ed James and Frank James of Thermalito, and Dr. R. F. James of Boston.

William James was born in Killgerrine, Wales, January 8, 1828. As a young man he became a sailor. He left his ship at Boston, Mass., and boarded a sailing vessel called the "Race Horse" for California, arriving in San Francisco in 1850. At the time the Race Horse left the Boston harbor, another sailing vessel known as the "Sea Witch" left Boston bound for California. These vessels raced around Cape Horn and up the Pacific ocean to San Francisco, the Race Horse winning by a small margin. James came here as a seaman.

The Lure of Gold

When arriving at San Francisco, the lure of gold was too much for him and he left the vessel and went to McKelumne Hills to mine. He then went to Rich Bar, Plumas county, which at that time was located in Butte county. Here he stayed for one or two years.

In 1853 James returned to Boston by vessel.

February 1, 1855, he married Katherine Forest, a native of Ireland, who was born October 16 1837. After their marriage James returned alone to California, coming again by vessel.

In 1856 James sent for his wife, and Mrs. James started on her way to California to join her husband. She came by way of the Isthmus Panama.

Witnessed Tragedy

While crossing the Isthmus a tragedy was enacted before her eyes. Mrs. James with other people were standing by a banana stand. A sailor fired a shot at some man, missed aim and killed a little girl who was standing by Mrs. James. She therefore had to stay as a witness and wait for the next vessel to California. A Chilean woman took her in and while she could not speak a word of English, was very kind.

Mrs. James arrived in San Francisco in 1856. Here she was met by her husband, where they stayed a few days before going into the mines.

While in San Francisco, waiting for his wife, a Vigilante badge was pinned on James. Some days later Mrs. James, looking from her hotel window saw the crowd gathered around the hanging of Casey and Corey, one of these men having killed the editor of the Bulletin.

Indian Neighbors

Mr. and Mrs. James then located on the West Branch of the Feather River where he engaged in mining. Their only close neighbors were Indians, all in "native dress." The nearest white woman, a Mrs Kunkle, lived about 2 miles away. The first white man that Mrs. James remembered meeting was Jake Sturmer, who was running a pack train into the mines. Here they made their home in a tent for some little time, then moved to Frenchtown.

Frenchtown was located about where the present Yankee Hill post office now stands. Here was a large settlement. The first six children of this union were born here.

At this time Spanishtown was on the "boom." This was the neighboring town, located about where the present Yankee Hill school house is, or between Yankee Hill and Deadwood. There were many Spanish people here then, hence the naming of the mining town.

**EXCITING FAMILY LIFE OF WM.
JAMES RECOUNTED; 5 CHILDREN
PURCHASE BRICKS FOR PARENTS**

Children Killed

Mr. and Mrs. James were living here at Frenchtown at the time of the uprising of the "Mill Creek" Indians, near Chico. It was in this vicinity that the tragedy of the Lewis children took place. After the rising the Indians then were making their way by way of Pence and up toward Frenchtown, when they came across the three Lewis children, 2 boys and 1 girl, returning home from school. One boy, while drinking from the creek was shot in the back, the other boy was thrown over a cliff, after having had his head crushed by beating it on the rocks.

The girl was taken prisoner. She was given a heavy rifle to carry. One old Indian was fascinated by the ear rings in her ears and started to snatch them from her ears. She then took them off and gave them to the Indian. A little later he then took the rifle from her and

walked on ahead thus giving her an opportunity to run away and hide. She was nine years of age then and hid all night in an arbor of grape vines. The next days she made her way to a neighboring ranch, and these people in turn took her to her home in Clear Creek. When she arrived home, her mother exclaimed how thankful she was to have at least one of her children returned to her alive, thus this little girl carried the name of "Thankful" from then on.

Another Attack

In the meantime when the children did not return from school a search was made and the body of the one boy was found. The little

girl was returned home at the time of his burial. She then led them to the cliff over which the younger boy's body had been thrown.

A few days later, Joe Miller while riding after cattle, where the present Hodapp place now is, saw smoke. He rode in that direction when he noticed a rifle sticking through the brush. He wheeled the mule he was riding and was shot at but not injured. The Indians burned the home of Workman's beating Mrs. Workman over the head with rocks and leaving her for dead. They also cut the throat of her sister and shot a man at work in the garden. Mrs. Workman was later found and survived.

Helped to Safety

During all this time, James was over at Jordan Hill where he was working while Mrs. James and the little family were at home. The youngest child was but six weeks old. When news of these tragedies came, messengers were sent out to the different homes asking all to congregate at the Miller place. A Mrs. Dollie brought word to the James home in the night, and helped Mrs. James and the six little ones to a place of safety. Here they all stayed for several days until all was quiet again.

To Thompson Flat

After living at Frenchtown for about 10 or 12 years they moved to Thompson Flat, which was then a thriving mining town. The move was made on account of better schools. Here the children had to walk 4 miles to the Morris Ravine school. Miss Belle Clark was one of the teachers. Later Judge Gray then a young man, taught in the Thompson Flat school where the children attended. This school house was situated across from the present Cole place in Thompson Flat.

**EXCITING FAMILY LIFE OF WM.
JAMES RECOUNTED; 5 CHILDREN
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They only lived here about a year or so, when the children had malaria so bad, that they moved to Oregon City, where a large house was erected and was the home of the James family for 64 years, and is still in their possession. The other five children, being all boys, were born here.

Continued Mining

James continued mining and while in the employ of the Cherokee Mining Company at Cherokee, he lost his eye sight, by the explosion of giant powder. This was one of the first places in the county that giant powder was used. This accident happened on May 23, 1872, when one of the children, Ed., was just one year and one day old. James was blind for 34 years.

There were eleven children born of this union: Maggie, William Henry, Alice, Katie Marie, Lucy Ann, George David, John Edward, Daniel Reuben, Edwin Thomas, Frances Even, and Richard Forest.

James died at Oregon City on April 24, 1905. Mrs. James died at Oregon City on her 83d birthday October 16, 1920.

Indian Friendship

Many stories are told of the great friendship that existed between the James family and "Susie" and her husband "Charlie" who were neighbors for years.

Susie was the daughter of Chief Chino of the Toto Tribe of Indians.

Charlie was the last survivor of the Wyama tribe. When Charlie was about 10 years of age the Indians from Stringtown, in their war paints crossed the river at Union Bar and camped at a point that is now known as the Logue place at Oregon City. The miners thought they were planning an attack on them, so got their defense ready. However, in the morning, the Indians passed them and made an attack on the Wyama tribe in Beatson's Hollow, on the edge of Table Mountain. This property is now owned by Openshaw and Johnson. All the tribe men were killed but Charlie. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Morrison of Oregon City took the boy and reared him to manhood and he was afterwards known as Charlie Morrison.

Schoolmates Will Meet At Historic Site

The Oregon City Schoolmates Club is holding its annual meeting Sunday, May 4, at Oregon City school house.

The Oregon City school dates to the early 1850's and was originally a building with wood floors and wood sides and a canvass top. Later, the money to build a suitable schoolhouse was raised by the residents in their own community and constructed on the same site.

Attendance at the old Oregon City school carries a certain pride, in fact, it might be said that the Schoolmates Club is an exclusive organization. It came into being around 15 years ago when the late "Bob" Strang and "Cordie" Nisbet got their heads together on the organizing of a club to hold the old classmates in closer bond.

The schoolhouse and property were purchased by the club and are a hallowed rendezvous for the yearly reunion.

INDIAN HOMESITE

The schoolhouse grounds occupy what was a rancheria in the old Indian days. School children found beads and arrow heads, played around the holes in the rocks where the Indians ground their corn, and built for themselves a store of reminiscences little dreamed of in their childhood days.

With search and remembrance of locations, former pupils are able still to find holes or depressions, about two feet deep showing where the wigwams were in the olden days before the golden days of Oregon City and Cherokee.

All former residents of both Oregon City and Cherokee are invited to meet with the Schoolmates Club next Sunday. Tony Nunes is president.

It is announced that refreshments will be served on the grounds.