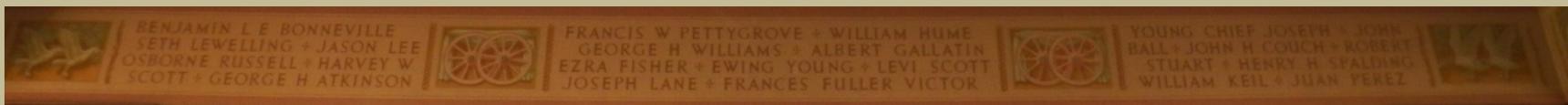


“These individuals, with their widely differing backgrounds, represent the variety of threads that were woven together to make Oregon what it is. In many cases, had these people been different than they were, had they acted differently, Oregon’s history would be different and, in a sense, Oregon today would be different.”
 - Philip Cogswell, Jr.
Capitol Names

Borrowing from Philip Cogswell, Jr.’s *Capitol Names: Individuals Woven Into Oregon’s History*, this virtual tour explores the 69 individuals remembered in the Oregon Senate. Use the diagram above to start exploring the names inscribed in the friezes above the Oregon Senate Chamber.



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Thomas Jefferson

President Thomas Jefferson organized the Lewis & Clark Expedition (1804-1806), which was also encouraged by his Treasury Secretary [Albert Gallatin](#). Following Captain Gray's discovery of the Columbia River, Jefferson saw the Louisiana Purchase as an aid to establishing an American claim to the Northwest. [John Ledyard](#)'s book about his voyage with Captain Cook in 1783 is credited with sparking Jefferson's interest in exploring the west.

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George Abernethy

George Abernethy was a Methodist missionary who arrived in Oregon in 1840 as part of the Great Reinforcement for [Jason Lee](#)'s mission. By 1849, Abernethy was one of the leading businessmen in the region. Abernethy was elected governor of the Provisional Government in 1845 and again in 1847, after winning a narrow victory over [Asa Lovejoy](#).

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John Kendrick

John Kendrick commanded the *Columbia Rediviva* while Robert Gray commanded the *Lady Washington* on a two-ship voyage to the northwest coast in 1787. The voyage was financed by merchants interested in [John Ledyard](#)'s book about Captain Cook's travels in the Pacific. Kendrick and Gray later exchanged ships when animosity developed between them. Kendrick took the *Lady Washington* to develop a Pacific trade between the Northwest, Sandwich Islands, and China.

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Martin D'Aguiar

Martin D'Aguiar was captain of the *Tres Reyes*, a Spanish sailing vessel, which voyaged the northwest coast in 1602. His ship's log contains one of the first written descriptions of the Oregon coast. Later, in 1774, Spanish sea captain [Juan Perez](#) would also explore the northwest coast. The discovery of the Columbia River in 1792 by Captain Gray, as recounted in [John Boit](#)'s journal, followed these earlier explorations of the northwest coast by D'Aguiar, Perez, and others.

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Robert Newell

Robert Newell, a mountain man and frontier doctor, was also the brother-in-law of the renowned pioneer [Joseph Meek](#). Newell and Meek helped open an important stretch of the Oregon Trail in 1840. Newell was also a member of the Legislative Committee of the Provisional Government (1843-48). After the Whitman Massacre in 1847, he urged a peace commission to work with Indians. In 1852, Newell platted the town of Champoeg and was elected to the state legislature in 1860.

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William S. Harney

William S. Harney was a Major General and the first commander of the new Military Department of Oregon created in 1858. One of his first acts was to formally declare the area east of the Cascades open for settlement. Harney sent troops through eastern Oregon exploring and protecting immigrant trains. Harney County was named for him. Like Major General [Philip Sheridan](#) and General [Edward R. S. Canby](#), Harney was a veteran of the Union Army during the Civil War.

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Wilson Price Hunt

Wilson Price Hunt was the only American partner in Astor's fur trading venture to the Pacific Northwest. Hunt was the leader of the overland Astor party that endured great hardship in the Snake River country before finally reaching Astoria in 1811, after receiving help from [Chief Concomly](#)'s Chinook confederacy. Hunt's overland party included [Marie Aioe Dorion](#) and [Ramsay Crooks](#).

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James W. Nesmith

James W. Nesmith came to Oregon with the Great Migration of 1843 and was elected to the Supreme Court of the Provisional Government in 1845. Nesmith served in the Provisional Legislature (1847-48) and was a captain in the Cayuse War of 1848, during which Colonel [Cornelius Gilliam](#) led the volunteer forces. Nesmith was appointed U.S. Marshall in 1853-55 to succeed [Joseph Meek](#). Nesmith later served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs (1857-59), Oregon's U.S. Senator (1861-65), and U.S. Representative (1873-75).

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R. S. Williamson

R. S. Williamson, together with his assistant, [Henry L. Abbot](#), surveyed potential railroad routes to California in the 1850s, one of the first steps to develop rail connections between the Northwest and the eastern United States. In 1867, he made the first official computation of the height of Mt. Hood.

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Lafayette Grover

Lafayette Grover was the first U.S. Representative from Oregon (1859) and later became the Governor of Oregon (1870-77) and U.S. Senator (1877-83). Grover served as a delegate to Oregon's Constitutional Convention in 1857 along with [Matthew Deady](#), [George H. Williams](#), [Levi Scott](#), [Asa Lovejoy](#), and others. Grover was a member of the "Salem Clique" of Oregon Democrats that also included [Joseph Lane](#) and [Asahel Bush](#).

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William H. Willson

William H. Willson arrived in Oregon in 1837. Along with [George W. LeBreton](#), Willson was one of the secretaries of the May 2, 1843, meeting at Champoeg. Willson was also elected Treasurer of the Provisional Government. In 1846, Willson platted and named Salem, choosing the name because it means “City of Peace.” In 1851, Willson lost an election to [Joseph Lane](#) to be Oregon’s territorial delegate to Congress. Willson Park adjacent to the Oregon State Capitol is named in his honor.

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Matthew P. Deady

Matthew P. Deady was elected to the territorial legislature and served as an Associate Justice of the territorial Supreme Court (1854-59) under Chief Justice [George H. Williams](#). Deady presided over the 1857 Convention that drafted the Oregon Constitution, which was also attended by [Lafayette Grover](#), [George H. Williams](#), [Levi Scott](#), [Asa Lovejoy](#), and others. Deady served as U.S. District Judge for Oregon (1859-93), was chairman of the University of Oregon's Board of Regents for 20 years, wrote the Oregon Code, and founded the Multnomah County Library.

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Samuel Parker

Samuel Parker came to the Northwest in 1835 with Marcus Whitman to find mission sites. He stayed at Fort Vancouver (1835-36) and selected mission sites later occupied by Marcus Whitman and [Henry Spalding](#). In 1838, Parker published his *Journal of an Exploring Tour Beyond the Rocky Mountains*.

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Francois X. Matthieu

Francois X. Matthieu arrived in Oregon in 1842 as a member of the party led by [Elijah White](#) and that included [Asa Lovejoy](#) and [Osborne Russell](#). A French Canadian, Matthieu was an advocate of democracy and was one of two non-Americans to vote at Champoeg for the organization of a government. Matthieu served two terms in the state legislature and at the time of his death in 1914 was the last surviving member of the historic Champoeg meeting.

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John S. Newberry

John S. Newberry came to Oregon in 1855 and explored central Oregon. A geologist, he discovered Newberry Crater in Deschutes County. Later, Newberry became a professor at Columbia University in New York, and his fellow geologist and professor, [Thomas Condon](#), would send him plant fossils from Oregon to study.

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Thomas H. Benton

Thomas H. Benton was a U.S. Senator from Missouri and one of the congressional champions of Oregon along with U.S. Senator [Lewis Linn](#) and U.S. Representative [John Floyd](#). Benton advocated settlement of the Columbia region during his 30-year Senate career and played a key role in the opening of the West. Benton County, Oregon, is named for him.

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Cornelius Gilliam

Cornelius Gilliam led an immigrant train to Oregon in 1844 and commanded volunteer forces against the Cayuse Indians in 1848 after the Whitman Massacre. Other volunteers, including [James Nesmith](#), also fought in the Cayuse War. Gilliam was accidentally killed during the campaign. Gilliam County was named for him.

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Samuel R. Thurston

Samuel R. Thurston arrived in Oregon in 1847 and practiced law in Oregon City. He was elected to the Provisional Legislature in 1848, and was appointed territorial delegate to Congress in 1849, the first Oregon delegate to Congress after the formation of the Oregon Territory. Important legislation accomplished by him included passage of the Donation Land Act of 1850, based on earlier ideas by U.S. Senator [Lewis Linn](#), to grant land to settlers.

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John C. Ainsworth

John C. Ainsworth was a foremost figure in the development of river transportation on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. He was captain of the [Lot Whitcomb](#) steamboat and helped organize the Oregon Steam Navigation Company in 1860. Ainsworth, Whitcomb, and [Henry Villard](#) made many valuable contributions to Oregon's early transportation networks.

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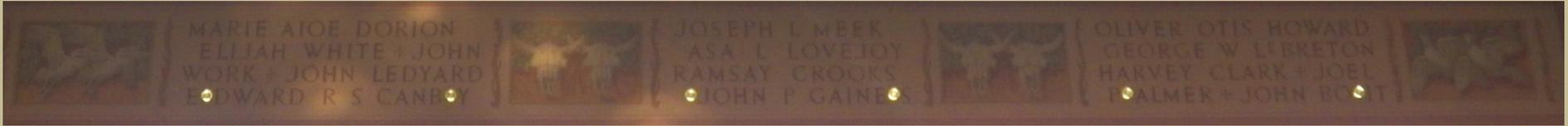
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Thomas Condon

Thomas Condon came to Oregon in 1852 and was ordained as a Congregational minister at Portland in 1853. He discovered the fossil beds in the John Day Valley and made many important geological discoveries. He was the first professor of geology at the University of Oregon and is called “Oregon’s Grand Old Man of Science.” Condon would also send plant fossils to his fellow geologist and paleontologist, [John S. Newberry](#), when Newberry was a professor at Columbia University in New York.

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Senate Frieze – Right



[MARIE AIOE DORION](#)

[ELIJAH WHITE](#) * [JOHN](#)

[WORK](#) * [JOHN LEDYARD](#)

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[JOSEPH L MEEK](#)

[ASA L LOVEJOY](#)

[RAMSAY CROOKS](#)

[JOHN P GAINES](#)

[OLIVER OTIS HOWARD](#)

[GEORGE W LeBRETON](#)

[HARVEY CLARK](#) * [JOEL](#)

[PALMER](#) * [JOHN BOIT](#)

Marie Aioe Dorion

Marie Aioe Dorion was an Iowa Indian and the first woman to cross the plains and settle in Oregon. Dorion was the wife of an interpreter for the John Jacob Astor overland expedition in 1811 led by [Wilson Price Hunt](#) and that included [Ramsay Crooks](#). Dorion is noted for her great courage in saving herself and her children after her husband was killed in 1813 by Indians in the Snake River area. She later became a respected resident of French Prairie, where [William Keil](#) later founded the Aurora Colony.

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Senate Frieze – Right



[MARIE AIOE DORION](#)

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[ASA L LOVEJOY](#)

[RAMSAY CROOKS](#)

[JOHN P GAINES](#)

[OLIVER OTIS HOWARD](#)

[GEORGE W LeBRETON](#)

[HARVEY CLARK](#) * [JOEL](#)

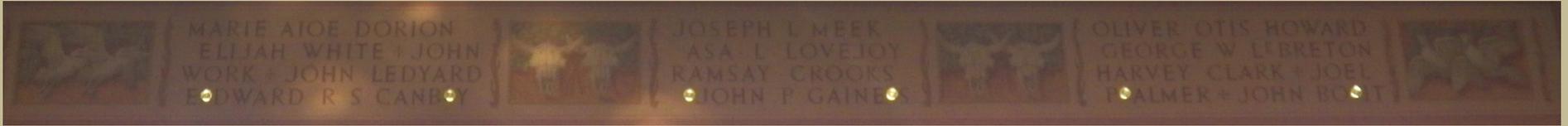
[PALMER](#) * [JOHN BOIT](#)

Elijah White

Elijah White was a physician for [Jason Lee](#)'s Willamette Mission in 1837. After disagreements with Lee, White returned east in 1841 but came back to Oregon in 1842 as head of the first major party of immigrants to the region, the forerunner of the Great Migration of 1843. [Asa Lovejoy](#), [Osborne Russell](#), and [Francois Matthieu](#) were members of White's party travelling to Oregon in 1842. White was a member of the committee that drafted the original organic law for the Provisional Government.

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Senate Frieze – Right



[MARIE AIOE DORION](#)

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[PALMER](#) * [JOHN BOIT](#)

John Work

John Work was the chief fur trader at Fort Vancouver for the British Hudson's Bay Company in 1830. He led the Snake Country expedition into southeastern Oregon in 1831. In 1832, Work led a trapping expedition to California and returned through the Rogue, Umpqua, and Willamette Valleys in 1833. At around this same time in 1832, [Benjamin Bonneville](#) led an expedition into Oregon on behalf of American interests to develop the fur trade. Later, Bonneville became the commander of Fort Vancouver.

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John Ledyard

John Ledyard served as an officer on Captain Cook's third voyage, publishing a book about it in 1783. Ledyard was the first American to see the possibilities of the fur trade. Merchants who read Ledyard's book financed the 1787 voyage of Robert Gray and [John Kendrick](#). Ledyard is also credited for stimulating [Thomas Jefferson](#)'s interest in western exploration, which led to the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 1804-1806.

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Edward R. S. Canby

Edward R. S. Canby, a veteran of the Civil War like [Philip Sheridan](#) and [William Harney](#), led U.S. Army efforts against the Modoc Indians in southern Oregon and northern California in 1872-73. General Canby was killed by the Modocs during a peace conference. The small band of Modocs held off a large army and volunteer force in the difficult terrain of the lava beds for several months before surrendering. Canby, Oregon, is named in honor of General Canby.

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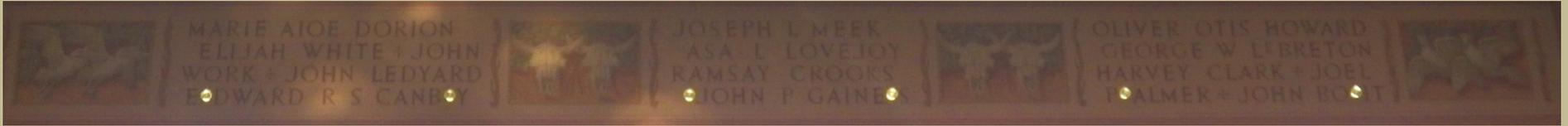
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Joseph L. Meek

Joseph L. Meek and his brother-in-law [Robert Newell](#) led the first party of wagons over the mountains, opening a part of the Oregon Trail in 1840. In 1843 at the Champoeg meeting, Meek led the Americans voting to organize the region's first government. Meek was the Provisional Government's sheriff and first tax collector and served in the Provisional Legislature. Meek and [George Ebbert](#) carried a petition to Washington, D.C., seeking territorial status for Oregon. Meek was appointed U.S. Marshall for the territory, and [James Nesmith](#) succeeded Meek as Marshall in 1853. [Frances Fuller Victor](#)'s first book, *The River of the West*, was a biography of Joseph Meek.

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Asa L. Lovejoy

Asa L. Lovejoy arrived in Oregon in 1842 with the party led by [Elijah White](#) and that included [Osborne Russell](#) and [Francois Matthieu](#). Lovejoy later was one of the founders of Portland along with [Francis Pettygrove](#). Lovejoy lost a narrow election to [George Abernethy](#) in 1847 to be the Provisional Governor, and Lovejoy served several sessions in the Provisional Legislature and was Speaker of the Territorial House in 1849. Later, in 1857, Lovejoy was a delegate to Oregon's Constitutional Convention along with [Matthew Deady](#), [Lafayette Grover](#), [George H. Williams](#), [Levi Scott](#), and others.

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Ramsay Crooks

Ramsay Crooks was a partner of John Jacob Astor and, along with [Marie Aioe Dorion](#) and others, was a member of the 1811 overland party led by [Wilson Price Hunt](#). Crooks suffered many hardships when he and John Day were left behind by the main party due to illness. After much difficulty, they finally reached Astoria. Later, in 1812-13, Crooks was a member of [Robert Stuart's](#) expedition eastward that also met with extreme hardship. By 1834, Crooks had captured the fur trade of the Missouri River and Rocky Mountains as director of the American Fur Company. Crooks was also acquainted with [John Floyd](#), which may have increased Floyd's interest in Oregon.

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John P. Gaines

John P. Gaines was appointed second territorial governor of Oregon (1850-53) by President Taylor after Abraham Lincoln refused the offer. Opposition to his appointment resulted in the formal organization of the Democratic Party in Oregon in 1852. Gaines was involved in the controversy over the location of the territorial capital in Oregon City or Salem. Gaines preferred Oregon City, but ultimately Oregon's delegate to Congress, [Joseph Lane](#), persuaded Congress to recognize Salem as the capital.

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Oliver Otis Howard

Oliver Otis Howard was the commander of the Department of the Columbia (1874-1879). Howard, a one-armed Army General, was in charge of the expedition against [Young Chief Joseph](#) in 1877 and against the Bannocks and Piutes in 1878, the last of the Indian wars in the Northwest. Howard engaged in humanitarian causes, and was the author of many books and articles. He also founded Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 1867 when he was the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau after the Civil War.

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George W. LeBreton

George W. LeBreton arrived in Oregon in 1840 on the brig *Maryland* with Captain [John H. Couch](#). As one of the secretaries at the Champoeg meeting in 1843 along with [William H. Willson](#), LeBreton made the motion for a division on the question of organizing a civil government in the region. LeBreton later served as clerk and recorder, in effect the first Secretary of State, for a legislative committee that prepared the first organic law for the government.

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Harvey Clark

Harvey Clark, an independent Congregational missionary, was a leader in the development of educational facilities in Oregon. Clark arrived in Oregon in 1840 and helped found Tualatin Academy in Forest Grove (Pacific University) and, together with [Jason Lee](#), helped found Oregon Institute (Willamette University). Clark also participated in the May 1843 Champoeg meeting and was chaplain of the first Provisional Legislature. Other missionaries in Oregon included [Henry Spalding](#), [Francois Norbert Blanchet](#), [Ezra Fisher](#), and others

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Joel Palmer

Joel Palmer distinguished himself in negotiations with the Indians. Palmer was U.S. Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory (1853-57). He and [Joseph Lane](#) negotiated the treaty of Table Rock with the Rogue and Umpqua Indians, the first treaty with Northwest Indians to be ratified by Congress (1854). Palmer served as speaker of the Oregon House (1862) and as a state senator (1864-66).

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John Boit

John Boit was an officer aboard the *Columbia Rediviva* under the command of Captain Robert Gray in 1792. Boit’s journal provides valuable details of Gray’s second voyage and the discovery of the Columbia River. Boit’s journal for May 12, 1792, described “a spacious harbour abreast the Ship ..., observed two sand bars making off, with a passage between them to a fine river.” The discovery of the Columbia River in 1792 by Captain Gray followed earlier explorations of the northwest coast by [Martin D’Aguilar](#), [Juan Perez](#), and others.

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Benjamin L. E. Bonneville

Benjamin L. E. Bonneville led an expedition through the west in 1832-33 seeking to develop the fur trade by Americans in response to the success of the British Hudson's Bay Company and their trappers like [John Work](#). Washington Irving's book on Captain Bonneville's adventures stimulated interest in the Oregon Country. Later, Bonneville commanded Fort Vancouver (1852-55).

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Seth Lewelling

Seth Lewelling was a pioneer orchardist in the 1850’s who developed several varieties of cherries, including Bing, Black Republican, and Lincoln. He was also active in the formation of the Republican Party in Oregon. Lewelling’s pioneering work in agriculture helped develop the industry, much like [William Hume](#)’s work established the important salmon canning industry in Oregon.

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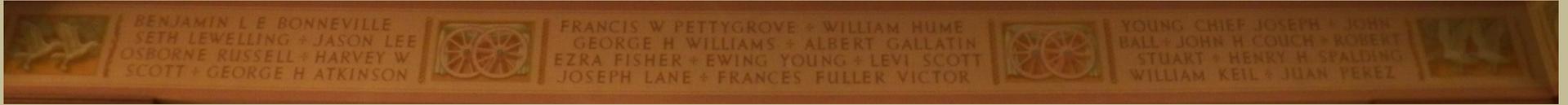
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Jason Lee

Jason Lee was a Methodist missionary who arrived in the Oregon Country in 1834 with the second [Nathaniel Wyeth](#) party, which also included [Osborne Russell](#). Lee established missions near Salem, The Dalles, and Clatsop Plains. Other missionaries in Oregon included [Henry Spalding](#), [Francois Norbert Blanchet](#), [Harvey Clark](#), [Ezra Fisher](#), and others. Lee’s lectures in the east in 1838 helped spark interest in Oregon and led to overland migrations. In 1840, [George Abernethy](#) came to Oregon to support Lee’s mission work. In 1841, Lee spoke at [Ewing Young](#)’s funeral urging mourners to organize a government. In 1842, Lee’s associate, [Elijah White](#), led the first major party of immigrants to the region. Lee and [Harvey Clark](#) helped found Willamette University.

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Osborne Russell

Osborne Russell was a mountain man and member of the second [Nathaniel Wyeth](#) party, which also included [Jason Lee](#). Russell returned to Oregon with the [Elijah White](#) party in 1842, which also included [Asa Lovejoy](#) and [Francois Matthieu](#). Russell was a member of the three man executive committee of the Provisional Government. Russell was a judge of the Provisional Government's Supreme Court, and participated in the 1843 Champog meeting.

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Harvey W. Scott

Harvey W. Scott was one of the first graduates from Pacific University. Scott was the first librarian of the Portland Public Library (1864-65) and one of the influential voices in the state from 1865-1910 as editor of the *Oregonian*, one of the rival newspapers to [Asahel Bush's Oregon Statesman](#). As the editor of the *Oregonian*, Scott opposed women's suffrage which placed him at odds with his sister, the prominent suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway.

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George H. Atkinson

George H. Atkinson was a Congregational missionary who arrived in Oregon in 1848. Atkinson was influential in the development of public education, including training some of the first teachers for Oregon schools and bringing the first schoolbooks for sale in Oregon. He wrote the education section of Territorial Governor [Joseph Lane](#)'s inaugural address, which resulted in passage of the first school law, including a school tax.

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Francis Pettygrove

Francis Pettygrove arrived in Oregon 1843 and established a business in Oregon City. Pettygrove was one of the founders of Portland and gave the town its name after winning the celebrated coin flip with [Asa Lovejoy](#). Later Pettygrove had a granary at Champoeg and a store in Portland.

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William Hume

William Hume started the first salmon cannery in the Pacific Northwest in 1866, marking the way for the development of the industry. By 1881, canning was second only to wheat production as the Northwest's largest industry. Hume's groundbreaking work in canning helped spark the industry, much like [Seth Lewelling](#)'s pioneering work in agriculture.

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George H. Williams

George H. Williams was appointed Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court in 1852, and [Matthew Deady](#) joined Williams as an Associate Justice on the court in 1854. Later, in 1857, Williams was a Democratic delegate to the Constitutional Convention presided over by Deady and attended by [Lafayette Grover](#), [Levi Scott](#), [Asa Lovejoy](#), and others. Williams worked hard for prohibition of slavery in the state, and eventually broke with the Democratic Party over the issue and became a Republican. He was elected U.S. Senator (1865-71), became U.S. Attorney General (1873-77), and was a member of the commission to settle boundary questions with Great Britain. Williams also served as mayor of Portland from 1903-1905.

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Albert Gallatin

Albert Gallatin was the Treasury Secretary under [President Jefferson](#). Gallatin encouraged the Lewis & Clark Expedition. An American diplomat, Gallatin was involved in negotiations with Great Britain over Oregon. He was a member of the U.S. peace commission that negotiated the Treaty of Ghent, which settled the War of 1812 and returned Astoria to the United States' possession. Gallatin was influential in the settlement of Oregon's boundary.

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Ezra Fisher

Ezra Fisher was a Baptist missionary who arrived in Oregon in 1845, following other missionaries to the region like [Jason Lee](#), [Henry Spalding](#), [Francois Norbert Blanchet](#), [Harvey Clark](#), and others. In 1850, Fisher bought Samuel Barlow’s original claim near Oregon City. Fisher was co-founder of Oregon City College, the forerunner of Linfield College, and later served as Wasco County school superintendent in 1861.

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Ewing Young

Ewing Young was a mountain man who came to Oregon from California in 1834 in the same party as [Hall J. Kelley](#). Young settled in the Tualatin Valley and formed the Willamette Cattle Company, bringing cattle from California, breaking the Hudson's Bay Company monopoly on livestock. His death in 1841 prompted discussions of organizing a government, partly to probate his estate. Indeed, in a speech at Young's funeral, [Jason Lee](#) urged mourners to organize a government.

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Levi Scott

Levi Scott arrived in Oregon 1844 and settled near Dallas. In 1846, he and Jesse Applegate led a party that worked out a new route to southern Oregon, the Scott-Applegate Trail. In 1850, Scott founded Scottsburg on the Umpqua River. He was a member of the Territorial Legislature and also served in the Constitutional Convention of 1857 with [Matthew Deady](#), [George H. Williams](#), [Lafayette Grover](#), [Asa Lovejoy](#), and others.

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Joseph Lane

Joseph Lane was the first Territorial Governor of Oregon in 1849 and sought advice from [George Atkinson](#) on public education. In 1851, Lane beat [William H. Willson](#) to be elected as Oregon's territorial delegate to Congress, serving until 1859. Lane later became one of Oregon's first U.S. Senators (1859-1861). As a delegate to Congress, Lane helped persuade Congress to locate Oregon's Capitol in Salem, even though the Territorial Governor at the time, [John Gaines](#), preferred Oregon City. In 1854, Lane and [Joel Palmer](#) helped negotiate the treaty of Table Rock with the Rogue and Umpqua Indians. Lane was also a member of the influential "Salem Clique" that included [Asahel Bush](#) and [Lafayette Grover](#). Lane County was named for him.

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Frances Fuller Victor

Frances Fuller Victor came to Oregon in 1865 where she became interested in the region's history. Victor authored six volumes of (largely Northwest) history published by Hubert Howe Bancroft as part of a series on the western states. Victor's contribution to Bancroft's history was the first comprehensive history of the state. Victor's first book, *The River of the West*, was a biography of [Joseph Meek](#).

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Young Chief Joseph

Young Chief Joseph led the Wallowa branch of the Nez Perce Indians. In 1877, pursued by General [Oliver Otis Howard](#), Chief Joseph gained renown as a leader and tactician when he tried to lead his band of over 600 men, women, and children 1,300 miles to safety in Canada after settler-Indian conflicts over the Wallowa Valley. Chief Joseph is remembered as a thoughtful leader, humanitarian, and peacemaker.

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John Ball

John Ball was a member of [Nathaniel Wyeth](#)'s first expedition in 1832, staying in Oregon long enough to become the state's first school teacher, first lawyer, and first American farmer. Ball taught children at Fort Vancouver (1832-33) and later farmed near Salem before returning to New York.

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John H. Couch

John H. Couch first arrived in the area in 1840 as captain of the brig *Maryland* carrying goods and passengers, including [George W. LeBreton](#). Couch later established a store in Oregon City (1842) in competition with Hudson's Bay Company. He served as Treasurer under the Provisional Government (1845-47), and held other official positions including Multnomah County Commissioner and port warden.

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Robert Stuart

Robert Stuart joined John Jacob Astor in 1810 for the Oregon venture, arriving in Astoria on the *Tonquin*. He led a party eastward in 1812-1813 along the Platte River which later became the general route of the Oregon Trail. Stuart's party, which included [Ramsay Crooks](#), endured extreme hardship including the theft of their horses and near starvation during the winter.

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Henry H. Spalding

Henry H. Spalding came to the Oregon Country with his wife, Elizabeth, and the Whitmans in 1836. The Spaldings organized a mission to work with the Nez Perce Indians near Lewiston, Idaho, at a site first selected by [Samuel Parker](#). Other missionaries in the region included [Jason Lee](#), [Francois Norbert Blanchet](#), [Harvey Clark](#), [Ezra Fisher](#), and others. Spalding obtained the first printing press in the Oregon Country, and with it printed books in the Nez Perce language.

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William Keil

William Keil led colonists of German background to the Northwest in 1855. The colony settled at Willapa Bay in Washington Territory and then at French Prairie in Oregon. Earlier, [Marie Aioe Dorion](#), also chose to settle in French Prairie. At French Prairie the Aurora Colony was established and named after one of Keil's daughters. The Aurora Colony operated under a religious communal code, and its members were fine artisans producing furniture, clothing, baskets, and embroidery for sale to other settlers.

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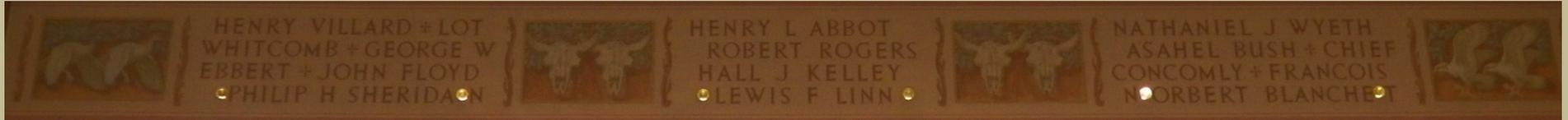
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Juan Perez

Juan Perez, a Spanish sea captain, explored the west coast of North America in 1774 from Mexico as far north as the Queen Charlotte Islands. Perez's exploration of the Northwest Coast came more than 150 years after the initial exploration by [Martin D'Aguilar](#) in 1602. The discovery of the Columbia River in 1792 by Captain Gray, as recounted in [John Boit](#)'s journal, followed earlier explorations of the northwest coast by D'Aguilar, Perez, and others.

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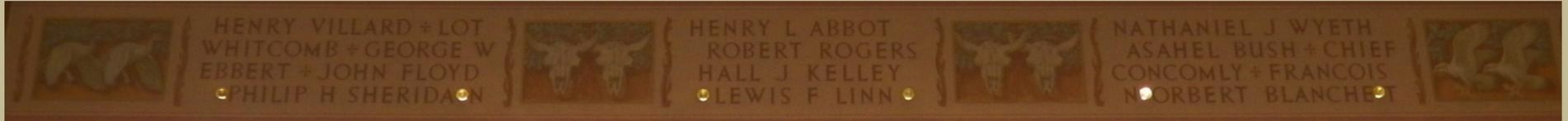
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[NORBERT BLANCHET](#)

Henry Villard

Henry Villard was a German immigrant who came to Oregon in 1873. Villard organized the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company in 1879, which became the dominant force in rail and water transportation in the region. He also pushed the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Together with [Lot Whitcomb](#) and [John Ainsworth](#), Villard was a major force behind Oregon's early transportation networks.

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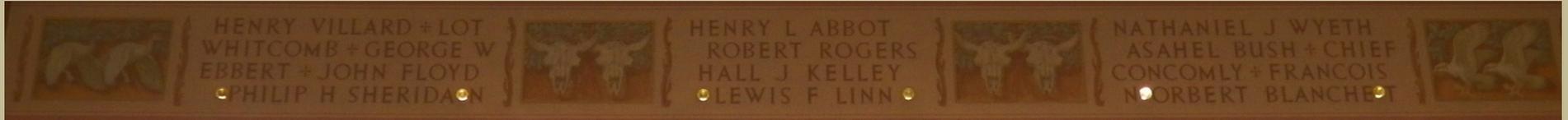
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Lot Whitcomb

Lot Whitcomb founded Milwaukie in 1848, and developed river transportation on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Whitcomb built the *Lot Whitcomb*, the first steamboat constructed on the Willamette River, captained by [John Ainsworth](#). Along with Ainsworth, and later [Henry Villard](#), Whitcomb had a major impact on Oregon's early transportation systems. Whitcomb also founded the Western Star newspaper in 1850, and served in the territorial legislature.

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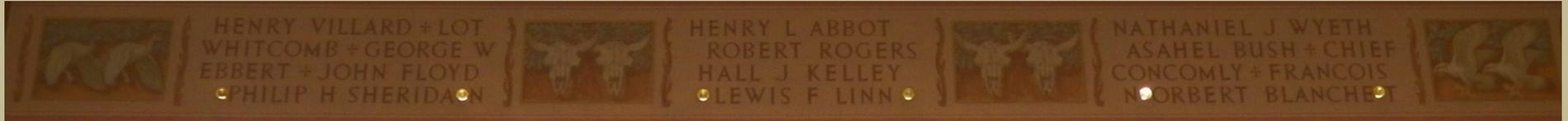
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George W. Ebbert

George W. Ebbert was a mountain man and trapper for the Hudson’s Bay Company. Ebbert was the first white settler at Champoeg in 1840, and was made constable of the Provisional Government at the historic Champoeg meeting. Ebbert accompanied [Joseph Meek](#) to Washington to seek U.S. assistance against Indians after the Whitman Massacre. Their trip also helped bring territorial status to Oregon.

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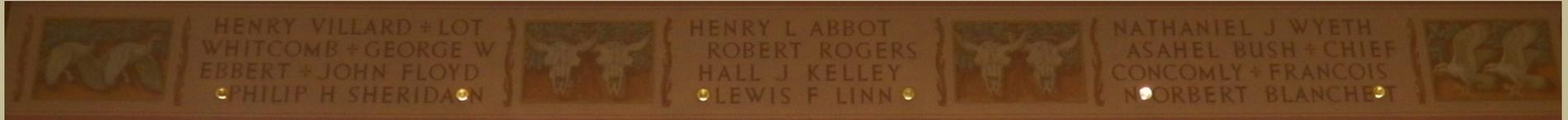
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John Floyd

John Floyd was a Virginia congressman (1817-29) and the earliest congressional advocate for the establishment of an Oregon territory. Later, U.S. Senators [Lewis Linn](#) and [Thomas Benton](#) also took up Oregon’s cause. Floyd introduced many bills in the House either for acquisition of territory or to promote official American activity there. While [Robert Rogers](#) first used the word “Ouragon” in 1765 to describe a river, a bill by Floyd in 1822 contained the first known official application of the word “Oregon” to a region rather than a river. Floyd was acquainted with former Astor party member [Ramsay Crooks](#), which may have increased Floyd’s interest in Oregon.

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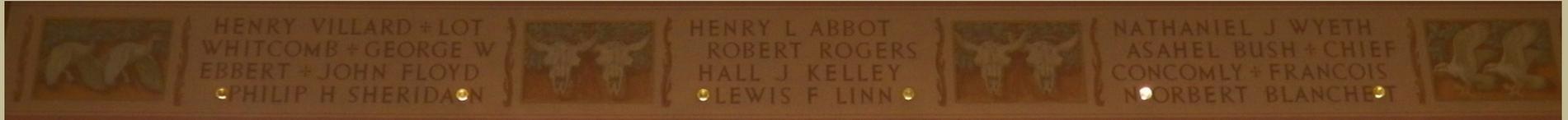
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Philip H. Sheridan

Philip H. Sheridan played a military role in the Oregon Territory (1855-56) and was involved in Indian campaigns. He also served at Fort Hoskins in Benton County and Fort Yamhill. Like Major General [William Harney](#) and General [Edward R. S. Canby](#), Sheridan was a veteran of the Union Army in the Civil War. During the Civil War, Sheridan commanded the cavalry of the Grand Army of the Republic, earned the rank of Major General, and became the Union Army's best known cavalry officer. The city of Sheridan, Oregon, is named after him.

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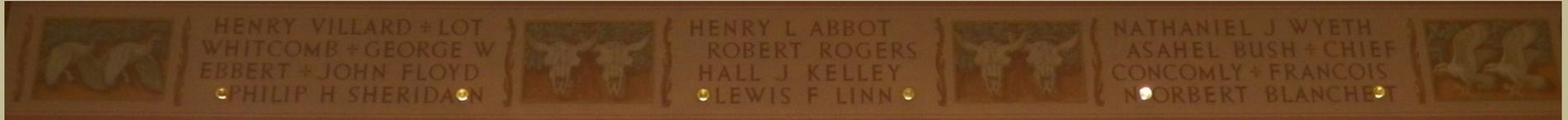
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Henry L. Abbot

Henry L. Abbot, working with [R. S. Williamson](#), was U.S. topographical engineer assigned to Pacific Railroad surveys. In 1855, he explored central Oregon for a railroad route to California. The work of Abbot and Williamson was instrumental and one of the important first steps in building rail connections between the eastern United States and the Northwest.

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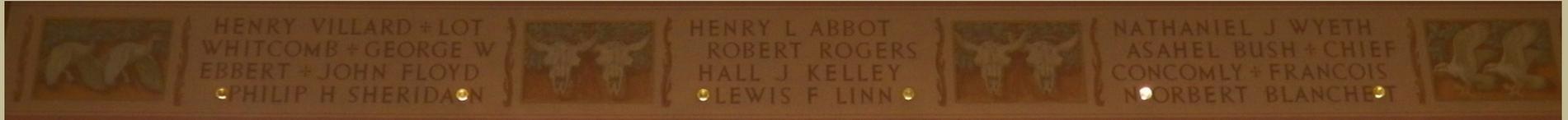
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Robert Rogers

Robert Rogers was the first to use the word “Oregon” in written form when he submitted a proposal in 1765 to King George III for an overland search for the Northwest Passage. The proposal mentioned a route from the Great Lakes to the head of the Mississippi “to the River called by the Indians Ouragon, which flows into a Bay that projects North-Eastwardly into the [country] from the Pacific Ocean.” Later, in 1822, a bill introduced in Congress by Representative [John Floyd](#) was the first official document to use the word “Oregon” to describe a region instead of just a river.

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Hall J. Kelley

Hall J. Kelley was an advocate of colonization of the Oregon Country and founder of the American Society for Encouraging the Settlement of Oregon Territory. Kelley wrote books and pamphlets to generate interest in Oregon. He made it to Oregon in 1834 by traveling north from California with [Ewing Young](#) and twelve others.

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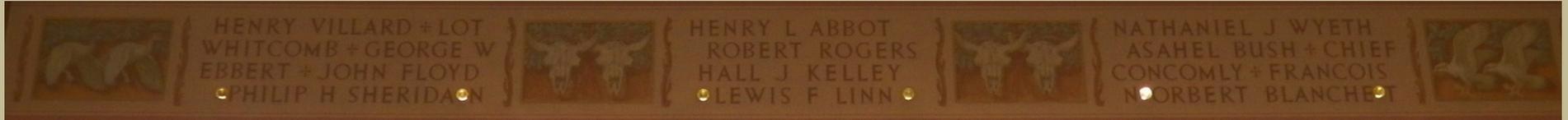
Lewis F. Linn

Lewis F. Linn was a U.S. Senator from Missouri and urged American occupation of the Oregon region. Along with U.S. Representative [John Floyd](#) and U.S. Senator [Thomas Benton](#), Linn was a major Congressional advocate for Oregon. He introduced numerous Oregon bills in Congress to authorize the occupation of the Columbia River area and establish the Oregon Territory, all of which failed. The Donation Land Act in 1850, which Oregon’s territorial delegate to Congress [Samuel Thurston](#) helped pass, was based on Lewis’ ideas. It settled questions of land titles, which was vitally important to the settlers.

	<p><u>Return to Chamber Diagram</u></p>	
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Senate Frieze – Left



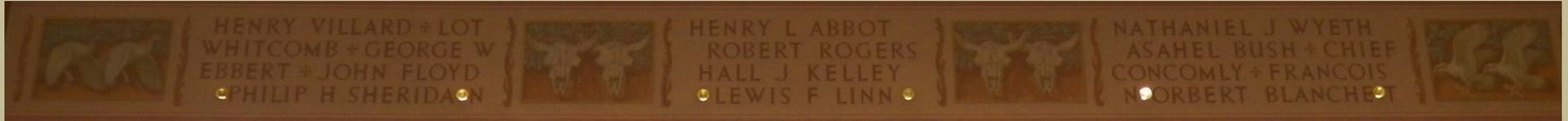
<p><u>HENRY VILLARD</u> * <u>LOT WHITCOMB</u> * <u>GEORGE W EBBERT</u> * <u>JOHN FLOYD</u> <u>PHILIP H SHERIDAN</u></p>	<p><u>HENRY L ABBOT</u> <u>ROBERT ROGERS</u> <u>HALL J KELLEY</u> <u>LEWIS F LINN</u></p>	<p><u>NATHANIEL J WYETH</u> <u>ASAHEL BUSH</u> * <u>CHIEF</u> <u>CONCOMLY</u> * <u>FRANCOIS</u> <u>NORBERT BLANCHET</u></p>
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Nathaniel J. Wyeth

Nathaniel J. Wyeth made two trips to Oregon leading expeditions to develop the fur and salmon business. His first trip ended at Fort Vancouver in 1832 and included [John Ball](#), but only a remnant of the original party survived and his supplies never reached Oregon. Wyeth built Fort Hall as the trading post on the Snake River. Wyeth accompanied [Jason Lee](#) , [Osborne Russell](#), and a missionary party from the east to Fort Vancouver in 1834. Wyeth then built a fort on Wapato (Sauvie) Island, where he established a trading post.

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Senate Frieze – Left



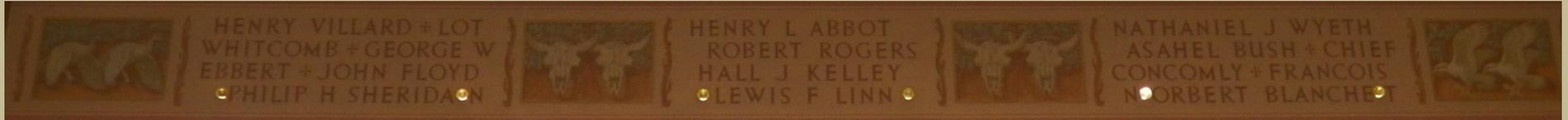
<p><u>HENRY VILLARD</u> * <u>LOT WHITCOMB</u> * <u>GEORGE W EBBERT</u> * <u>JOHN FLOYD</u> <u>PHILIP H SHERIDAN</u></p>	<p><u>HENRY L ABBOT</u> <u>ROBERT ROGERS</u> <u>HALL J KELLEY</u> <u>LEWIS F LINN</u></p>	<p><u>NATHANIEL J WYETH</u> <u>ASAHEL BUSH</u> * <u>CHIEF</u> <u>CONCOMLY</u> * <u>FRANCOIS</u> <u>NORBERT BLANCHET</u></p>
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Asahel Bush

Asahel Bush arrived in Oregon by ship in 1850. Bush became editor and publisher of the *Oregon Statesman* in 1851. Bush’s *Oregon Statesman* was a chief rival to [Harvey Scott](#)’s *Oregonian* newspaper. Bush was a major influence in territorial Democratic politics as a leader of the “Salem Clique,” which included [Joseph Lane](#) and [Lafayette Grover](#). Bush later broke with Lane’s faction of the Democratic Party over the issue of slavery. Later, Bush was associated with W.S. Ladd in the Ladd & Bush Bank in Salem.

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Senate Frieze – Left



<p><u>HENRY VILLARD</u> * <u>LOT WHITCOMB</u> * <u>GEORGE W EBBERT</u> * <u>JOHN FLOYD</u> <u>PHILIP H SHERIDAN</u></p>	<p><u>HENRY L ABBOT</u> <u>ROBERT ROGERS</u> <u>HALL J KELLEY</u> <u>LEWIS F LINN</u></p>	<p><u>NATHANIEL J WYETH</u> <u>ASAHEL BUSH</u> * <u>CHIEF CONCOMLY</u> * <u>FRANCOIS NORBERT BLANCHET</u></p>
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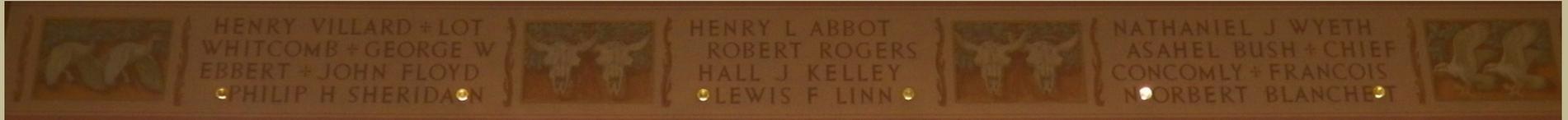
Chief Concomly

Chief Concomly was the principal chief of the Chinook Indians. Chief Concomly was friendly to settlers, receiving medals from Lewis and Clark and assisting the Astor party including [Wilson Price Hunt](#). Chief Concomly offered to help the Americans fight the British during the War of 1812, but later was equally friendly to the British.

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Senate Frieze – Left



<p><u>HENRY VILLARD</u> * <u>LOT WHITCOMB</u> * <u>GEORGE W EBBERT</u> * <u>JOHN FLOYD</u> <u>PHILIP H SHERIDAN</u></p>	<p><u>HENRY L ABBOT</u> <u>ROBERT ROGERS</u> <u>HALL J KELLEY</u> <u>LEWIS F LINN</u></p>	<p><u>NATHANIEL J WYETH</u> <u>ASAHEL BUSH</u> * <u>CHIEF CONCOMLY</u> * <u>FRANCOIS NORBERT BLANCHET</u></p>
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Francois Norbert Blanchet

Francois Norbert Blanchet was Oregon’s first Roman Catholic Archbishop. Blanchet arrived in 1838 after French Canadian settlers requested a priest because of growing Protestant missionary activity by those like [Jason Lee](#), [Henry Spalding](#), [Harvey Clark](#), [Ezra Fisher](#), and others. Unlike Lee, Father Blanchet opposed the organization of government in Oregon Country believing it would enhance U.S. claims to the region.

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