

"FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND"

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. In each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand-one belonging to him and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints and noticed that many times along the path there was only one set of footprints in the sand. He also noticed that this happened during the lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him, so he questioned the Lord: "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way, but I noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you the most, you deserted me."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I would never desert you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

This is a compilation of stories, letters statistics etc. that I have gathered together over the years. So I decided to type them all up and put them in this little booklet as a gift to you and for you to enjoy. It pertains mostly to Pierre Belleque and his wife Genevieve St. Martin. Thomas Jefferson Hubbard mentioned in the book was the husband of Marie St. Martin, younger sister of Genevieve.

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Notes

- Pages 1 and 2.....By Christine Belleque-Grandaughter of
Albert and Edith Belleque.
- Page 9.....Is not a part of Bishop Leipzig's sermon.
- Pages 24 to 26.....Mrs. Irvine started the Genealogical Forum
in Portland, Oregon. I was well acquainted
with her. She supplied me with much mater-
ial about our family.
- Page 31.....Mrs. Josie Parker was an adopted daughter
of Pierre Belleque II and natural daughter
of his wife, Sarah Fayas.
- Page 35.....Mrs. Munnick lives in West Linn, Oregon.
She is the author of six books on Catholic
Church Records of the Pacific Northwest.

PIERRE BELLEQUE AND GENEVIEVE (ST.MARTIN) BELLEQUE

Pierre Belleque was the son of Louis Belleque and Marguerite Baudoin(Beaudoin) Belleque(Belec) of Assumption Parish in the province of Quebec,Canada. Pierre was born on January 9,1797. About 1818 he came to the Oregon Country with the Northwest Fur Company. He eventually became an employee of the Hudson Bay Company after the consolidation of the Northwest Fur Company and the Hudson Bay Company in 1821. After having been a scout for many years he settled on a farm near St.Paul, Oregon sometime between 1830 and 1833.

Genevieve St.Martin was the daughter of Joseph St.Martin,who had come west with the Northwest Fur Company,and a girl of the Chinook Nation. She was born about 1814.

Pierre Belleque and Genevieve St.Martin were married about 1830 and their marriage was later confirmed in the St.Paul Catholic Mission Church in 1839.

The Belleques were very much interested in having Catholic Priests in the Oregon Country and particularly in French Prairie where they lived. Pierre Belleque, who was fairly well educated by the standards of the time,was one of the leaders in the preparation of the petition which requested priests for the Oregon Country. The Belleques lived on their 640 acre farm about three miles north of St.Paul. For a short time their nearest neighbors were the Louis LaBonte's but when the LaBonte's moved to Yamhill County their neighbors became the Etienne Luciers who owned the adjacent farm. The Belleques raised wheat,oats and vegetables and had a considerable number of horses, cows and sheep. The first fur trading post in Oregon,which had been built by members of the Astor Expedition in 1812, was located on the Belleque farm. The Belleques lived in the trading post house which was constructed of locally hewn logs and boards which had come around the Cape Horn by steamship. When Fr. Blanchette arrived at Ft.Vancouver, Pierre Belleque and Etienne Lucier, went to Vancouver to meet him. They later accompanied him from Ft.Vancouver to the Mission Church on French Prairie. On the day of the first mass in the St.Paul Catholic Mission,January 6,1839, The Belleque's three children were baptised by Fr.Blanchette. On January 21,1839 the Belleques were married in the Mission Church by Fr. Blanchette. Pierre Belleque went to the California gold fields with the St. Paul contingent. Before he left he made a will which became the first recorded will in the state of Oregon.* Mr.Belleque's thirteen year old son accompanied him to the gold fields. They were very successful and decided to return via steamship from San Francisco. On the return voyage Mr. Belleque became quite ill from

a fever contracted in the gold fields. He passed away before reaching home and was buried at sea near the mouth of the Columbia River in October 1849. Fr. Delorme, who was returning to St. Paul on the same ship also contracted the fever but survived. Mr. Belleque's son, Pierre II returned to St. Paul but the gold that they had mined was missing and nobody ever knew what happened to it.**After Mr. Belleque's death, Mrs. Genevieve (St. Martin) Belleque married Casimir Gardepie of St. Paul and they continued to operate the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Belleque had seven children as follows: Sophie who married Narcisse Cornoyer of St. Paul; Pierre II who married Mary Ann Gagnon; Genevieve who married Felix Gregoire of St. Paul; Esther who married Joseph Hibert; Joseph who died when a young boy; Jean Baptiste who married Victorine Vassal; and, Cyprien who married Julienne Bergevin of St. Paul, who was the grand daughter of Jacques Servant, one of the earliest settlers in St. Paul, Oregon.

Mr. Belleque passed away at sea in 1849 at the age of 52. Mrs. Belleque passed away about 1904 when about 90 years of age.

The Pierre Belleques were important leaders in the establishment of social, religious and economic life in early Oregon. Their children attended St. Joseph's College and Sisters of Notre Dame School in St. Paul. They loved social affairs and dancing. Their daughter Sophie's husband, Narcisse Cornoyer, was a Major in the Oregon Volunteers during the Indian War of 1855-1856, Indian Agent for the Umatilla Reservation and the first duly elected sheriff of Marion County. Throughout their lives the Pierre Belleques were heavy contributors to the St. Paul Catholic Church and participated in all church activities. In addition to raising their own family they raised an orphan girl, Rose Aucent, who became the wife of F.X. Matthieu of Butteville.

* Pierre's will was the first to be recorded in Marion County, Book one, page 1.

** According to Mrs. Josephine Parker, Woods, Oregon (Adopted daughter of Pierre Belleque-she said when Pierre II was on board ship coming home he was carrying \$30,000 of gold dust in his pocket. He pulled down his pants for toilet reasons and the gold dust went into the ocean. Pierre Belleque lived with this daughter in his last days and she said this was told to her by him. In Mrs. Munnick's book, "Catholic Church Records of the Northwest"-She explained it this way: "The gold dust was lost overboard by the boy."

PIERRE BELLEQUE was born at Assumption, Canada, time unknown. It appears that he came to Oregon as an employee of one of the early fur companies, later entering the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. Growing tired of the life of a trapper he decided in 1830 to settle on a river tract which joins the lands of Lucier, and covered the site of the old post of the Northwest Company fort, or Henry House for a dwelling. Like his friends, he had possessed a number of wives and was the father of many children. His last wife was Genevieve St. Martin, daughter of _____* St. Martin, of Sorel, Canada and an Indian woman.

In the early '30's Thomas Jefferson Hubbard, who came with Wyeth and figured prominently in many activities leading up to the establishments of our provisional government, got his eye-on a likely looking wilderness gal-Belleque's sister-in-law who was providing home and comfort for one Thornburg. Hubbard proceeded to carry her off, without protest on her part, to his cabin on the river. Thornburg, noting her absence and guessing her whereabouts, hooped it to Hubbard's home with full intention of re-possessing his former helpmeet-and, to this end, got tough-result-Thornburg was shot through the heart by Hubbard-J.K. Townsend, the naturalist who came with Wyeth in 1834, says in his narrative, that on July 4, 1835, while off Wapato (Sauvie) Island, aboard a brig, he and the captain, Lambert were called ashore by Mr. Walker, in charge of Wyeth's trading post (Fort William) to serve on a jury to investigate the killing of Thornburg by Hubbard. The jury found it a justifiable homicide. On April 3, 1837 Hubbard and Mary Samata* were married at the home of Belleque, near Champoege, by the Reverend Lee. Years later Hubbard trekked to the Umatilla Indian reservation, where he died in 1877.

I have so far been unable to find the time and place of Belleque's death. It has been handed down that he lies buried on his old land claim. Other reports have it that, like many others on the Prairie, he caught the California gold fever and died (1849-1850) in that state. The record shows that his wife had become a (sod widow) when on Nov. 25, 1850 she married one Casimir Gardepie. The greater part of Belleque's land claim became lost to his wife and children.

* Joseph St. Martin

* Marie Samata is the same as Marie St. Martin.

Marie St. Martin who was baptized at the age of twenty four years of age, daughter of Joseph St. Martin and a Tchinouk woman-baptized Nov. 15, 1845.

Note-Pierre Belleque left for gold mines on May 15, 1849 and when coming back on board ship in passage from San Francisco to Oregon he died from a fever in October 1849. Leaving a wife and six children. His son, Pierre (Peter) 13 years old accompanied him on this trip but he was able to make it home. Pierre, along with other men, women and children were buried at the mouth of the Columbia River at Astoria.

The above article was written by Oswald West. Taken from Oregon Historical quarterly Vol. 43-1942. Oswald West was Governor of Oregon 1911-1914.

I'm not sure about Pierre Belleque having several wives. Lorraine Holmes

Taken from "Letters of Dr. John McLoughlin"
by Burt Brown Barker

July 1832

Letter# 265

No copy in Hudson's Bay Co.A.

Letter in the handwriting of Dr. John McLoughlin

Memorandum for Mr.(P.W.) Dease (C.T.)

The following men going up belong to Fort Vancouver:

Joseph Ducharme, Paul Lamotte, Heria, Bellicque (Pierre), Michel Turgeon, Baptiste

Brulon, Laurent Karonhitchego-

Ducharme can be exchanged for another man if necessary and six to be sent back from Walla Walla except Laurent who must go up for the express. Mr. Pierre Pambrum has one more man than his number and if necessary Mr. P.W. Dease can take Jacques or Michael LaFramboise for any other man and send that man down here if he makes no exchange La Framboise ought to be sent down here.

SETTLER, S NAME	WHEN BEGUN	ACRES ENCLOSED	ACRES CULTIVATED	CROP of WHEAT BUSHELS
66				
JEAN BAPTISTE McROY	1831	69	35	556
ANDRE LONGTRE	1835	45	24	400
CHARLES PLANTE	1835	60	60	800
CHARLES RONDEAU	1836	24	24	200
LOUIS FOURIER	1835	34	34	540
JOSEPH GERVAIS	1832	135	65	1000
XAVIER DELAROUT	1834	36	36	350
JOSEPH DELOR	1832	28	28	280
E, ARQUETTE	1833	80	50	600
JEAN B. PERAULT	1832	80	60	500
ETIENNE LUCIER	1832	70	45	740
PIERRE BELLEQUE	1833	50	45	700

HousesHorsesHogs

JEAN BAPTISTE McCOY	3	33	22
ANDRE LONGTRE	2	3	33
CHARLES PLANTE	2	12	14
CHARLES RONDEAU	1	9	10
LOUIS FOURIER	1	9	10
JOSEPH GERVAIS	3 & 1 grist mill	19	55
XAVIER DELAROUT	2	11	35
JOSEPH DELOR	2	11	28
E. ARQUETTE	2	5	31
JEAN B. PERAULT	3	4	20
ETIENNE LUCIER	4 & 1 grist mill	21	45
PIERRE BELLEQUE	2	9	28

1844

PIERRE BELLEQUE	CLOCKS	WATCHES	HORSES	CATTLE	HOGS	TOTAL VALUE
	12	20	400	1000	36	1,468

Poll tax amount of tax at the rate of 1/8 of 1 %=\$2.32

Remarks good for all them

Mrs. Lorraine Benski
1901-14th St.
Oregon City,
Oregon,
U.S.A.

Dear Madam,

Answering your's of August 12th 1960, you will found the following details regarding my father's genealogy.

The first Belec came to Canada in 1685 and choice a farm at Batiscan near Three Rivers his name was Guillaume Le Bellet, Belec or Belleque. He married Gabrielle Baribault on December 24th 1687.

According to the genealogy of my father, Alfred Belec prepared by Drouin Society they mentioned only one son to Guillaume LeBellet his name was Louis LeBellet married to Madeleine Gaudry in Varennes on January 31st 1725.

The society mentioned also one son his name was Joseph Belec married to Madeleine Langevin on April 14th 1760. The book mentioned one son of Joseph Belec his name was Jean Baptiste Belec married to Marie Proulx at Oka on February 2nd 1795. He has a son also named Jean Baptiste Belec married to Marguerite Lalonde at St. Eustache on February 26th 1821. The only son mentioned in the book is Moise Belec married to S. Filion in St. Adele on January 31st 1853. Moise Belec has a son named Eugene Belec who is my Grandfather. He married Malvina Provost at St. Adele September 10th 1883. My My father Alfred Belec was born in St. Jovite, Quebec on April 3rd. 1886 and is still alive. His age is 74 years.

Expecting these informations will be a little help for you,
I am,

Yours truly

Pierre Bélec,
6567 D'Aragon,
Montreal, Québec.

EXTRACTS FROM SERMON

By the Most Reverend Francis P. Leipzig, Bishop of Baker, at the
Dedication of the Church of St. John Apostle in Oregon City
on May 6, 1957.

"Holiness becometh Thy house, Oh Lord, until length of days."

In the ninety-second psalm, the Royal Prophet sings of the glory of God in the world;...how the rivers and surge of the sea lift up their voices to praise Him; how all things attest His power and greatness.

On earth, Christ selected the womb of Mary for His first sanctuary. Where shall we find such a dwelling place?...And the pious Christian hastens to build Him a house, fairest in form that his mind can picture; the richest that wealth can furnish; the grandest and greatest that his skill and power can raise.

You good Christian people of Oregon City have done your part. From your abundance and your poverty, you have raised this grand temple, fitted it for the reception of the Incarnate God. Your zealous pastor, the Very Rev. Theodore Bernards has labored zealously to accomplish this wonderful purpose.

Nor will you grow weary until within and without you have finished this temple of God. In completing this church you will have made a grand act of faith--not now as individuals, but as a united people you make a solemn contract with God that you show forth your faith by your work. Your children will see in this church a symbol of your holy Catholic faith.

Hence, we rejoice today that another altar is erected in which the Victim of Calvary will be daily offered to the eternal Father, in acknowledgement of His supreme charity and in thanksgiving for His boundless infinite mercy towards us....

In this holy place Christ will clothe the soul of a newly born infant or an adult convert with grace of Baptism. As the child of God passes to the age of reason and advances into manhood the cloud of sin may come over his soul. As a trembling penitent, scarred by the marks of spiritual warfare, he enters the confessional, comes forth encouraged by the absolution of another Christ.

At the altar rail he received the Bread of Angels, that sustaining food that will enable him to conquer the trials and temptations of life. Later he becomes a soldier of Christ by the sign of Confirmation. Here before this altar a couple will kneel and swear to each other fidelity until death do them part.

Even after the soul will wing its way into eternity, the prayer of the good shepherd will follow him to the throne of Christ, begging and appealing to the Master for mercy to his soul.

Here in this church you will have the priest, another Christ, reenact the great drama of the last supper and of Calvary. The Angels and Archangels envy your pastor this marvelous privilege. For by this act God elevates the priesthood to a dignity not even attained by the Blessed Virgin, herself.

Here Jesus will be laid in the tabernacle as in the manger in Bethlehem. He will rest under the sacramental veil, speechless as in His mother's arms. He will live here separated from the world as at Nazareth.

On this day then as we lift our hearts in gratitude to Him from whom all our blessings come, it is meet and just that we pause reverently to recall the noble Archbishops, the zealous priests, the beloved sisters and Catholic lay-people of the parish now departed. May they sleep the sleep of peace. May the dead from their high places near God look down upon us and bless us

Prominent among the great ones of the Northwest is the saintly Archbishop Blanchet a man endowed with a keen intelligence and inflamed with a mighty love of God.

Archbishop Seghers, in his eloquent funeral sermon for Archbishop Blanchet, said "He is the apostle of the coast, the foundation of this mission, the cornerstone of this church. He was the first missionary, the apostle of Oregon. He is to Oregon what St. Boniface was to Germany; what St. Augustine was to England; what St. Patrick was to Ireland: Our children will envy the blessing of having seen him, of having conversed with him, of having listened to his voice."

Father Blanchet, accompanied by Mr. Stephen Lucier and Mr. Belleque passed Oregon City in two large canoes early on Friday morning, January 4, 1839 on their way to Champoeg. In May of 1839 Father Demers accompanied Father Blanchet to Champoeg passing by Oregon City.

On April 29, 1841, Father Blanchet visited Willamette Falls and purchased a lot for \$225.00 to build a chapel for the Indians. In October 1843, accompanied by Dr. John McLoughlin, Father Blanchet chose a lot donated by the "Father of the Oregon Country."

On March 3, 1844, 113 years ago, Mass was celebrated for the first time in the historic spot of Oregon City--by Father Modeste Demers, later Bishop Demers. On May 13th of the same year Father Demers blessed and erected a high cross chosen for the church which was to be built two years later..

The most prominent layman of the old Oregon Country was Doctor John McLoughlin, frequently called "The Father of Oregon." This is not the time nor place for an eulogy, yet as the searchlight of history plays upon the days of the past, his name shines more brightly. Recently the State Legislature honored him by law with the title which he had received many years by tradition, namely "The Father of the Oregon Country." This parish paid him partial recognition when on Oct. 6, 1907, 50 years ago, the new school dedicated by the late Archbishop Alexander Christie was named "McLoughlin Institute." It is well for us to recall that this year (Sept. 3, 1957) is the centennial of his death. Before his death he was honored by His Holiness, Pope Gregory XVI as a Knight of St. Gregory. For many years a memorial window, representing him as a Knight of St. Gregory was in the first church constructed in Oregon City. A few years ago McLoughlin statue was placed in the halls of the National Capital....

Subsequent events plunged not only this parish, but all the missions of Oregon almost into dismal failure; politics, economics and religious fanaticism played their parts. In 1855-56 the total number of clergy was seven. This was taken as the nadir of the Catholic missions of Oregon. The Sisters were first to close the schools at St. Paul and then at Oregon City. The financial difficulties of the Archdiocese were so desperate that the early saintly Archbishop spent two years in South America, principally Peru, Bolivia and Chile securing funds to meet his just debts....

May we the present generation pass on the torch of confidence and charity to future generations. May we pass on the light which has been given to us as a revelation to all nations. May the mellowing hand of time add but charm and dignity to this Catholic parish. As to those who in the years to come shall then bear the torchlight of faith in this great Northwest, we who shall soon lay down our burdens and surrender to the Eternal Master of time, ask them to cherish tenderly, guard faithfully the precious treasures which we pass on to them.

May our holy resolution be that the harvest of the future be not unequal to those of the past in beauty and richness. We ask future generations to judge us kindly for the failures and defects which they may recognize in the work we are striving to do.

In love and admiration to the pioneers of this parish and to the present and future generations, we close as we began, "Holiness becometh Thy House, O Lord, until length of days.

Petition to Congress for extending U.S. Government
to West Coast.
Taken back to Washington by Jason Lee, March 16, 1838

Jean B. Desportes (McKay)
Joseph Gervais
xavier Laderout
Joseph DeLard
Pierre Belleque
Andre' Picard (one A. Picard was postmaster at Kamloops)
Joseph Delozhe
John B. Perault
Etienne Lucier
and 27 names of English speaking settlers.

P. L. Edwards and Lee drafted petition—was handed to Senator
Linn and presented to Congress Jan. 28, 1839.

Laid on table.

June 1840 Linn presented another.

Memorial from Oregon signed by 70 Americans.

Signatures of Petitions to E. Young to discontinue
his still.

Amable Arquette
Charles Plante
Pierre Belleque
Joseph Delore
Pierre Depot
Louis Forcier
Joseph Gervais
Xavier Laderout
Etienne Lucier
Desportes McKay
Andre' Picard
Charles Rondeau

Testament of Pierre (Peter) Belleque

Before us, Priest missionary of St Paul's Mission in the county of Champoeg and the witnesses hereafter named and underwritten has appeared Peter Belleque a husbandman of Champoeg county, the said Peter Belleque being heartfelt and enjoying his whole memory judgement and understanding as it seemed to us and the witnesses, has immediately dictated his solemn testament in the following form and manner.

In the name of the Holy Trinity, I, Peter Belleque, a husbandman of the county of Champoeg, O.T.* willing that after my death it should be disposed of my movable and immovable goods according to my present will, declare my testament and last will as follows:

First; I want my debts to be paid by the executers of my will under named;

Secondly; I order a solemn funeral service to be celebrated after my death for the rest of my soul.

Thirdly; I give and bequeath to my wife, Genevieve F. Martin (Jany) a third of all my movable and immovable goods, to be divided by the will of the administrators.

Fourthly; I give and bequeath my three daughters, Sophy, Genevieve and Ester and my two sons, Jean Baptiste and Cyperian, the sum of eight hundred dollars currency, the same sum my executers shall give to each of them in equal share.

Fifthly; Each of my children shall continue to posses after my death the cows, oxen and horses which are holden to be theirs.

Sixthly; As to the remainder of all my movable and immovable goods for-said articles having been executed, I give to my oldest son, Peter (Pierre) Belleque, who I appoint my universal legatee.

Seventhly; At last, in order that the present will may be executed, I establish th R.J.B.Z. Bolden, missionary and Thomas Hubbard, my brother-in-law, the executors of the said testament and pray them to heve it executed with expidition and economy.

* For some reason F. must mean St. (Saint)

Done, written and undersigned this day the twenty fifth of January in the year of our Lord, one eight forty eight, in the presence of the underwritten witnesses; Tousant Mesplie and Hercule Lebrun, in our residence at F. Paul Mission, the Testator being unable to sign has made a cross before us and underwritten witnesses; Peter Belleque ^{his} X cross

T. Mesplie
Hercule Lebrun
J. B. Z. Bolden

Ido solemnly swear that the within will is a true copy of the original as translated by me (the original being in French).

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of November 1849.
I. N. Gilbert
Clk. P. C. M Bolden PR.

Filed November 19th 1849

Book 1 Page 1

November term 1849

John B. Bolden and Thomas Hubbard, presented to the court the last will and testament of Peter Belleque, deceased, which being in the French language the court appointed John B. Bolden translator of the said will; whereupon the said Bolden, presented a translation of the said will into English language and made oath to the same as being a true translation of said will, said will being proven to the satisfaction of the court to be the last will and testament of the said Peter Belleque.

The court then appointed John Bolden and Thomas Hubbard administrators of the estate of Peter Belleque, deceased, and gave them letters of administration, they, the said John Bolden and Thomas Hubbard, taking the oath prescribed by law and giving bonds to the satisfaction of the court for the faithful performance of their duties as administrators of the estate of Peter Belleque.

Ordered by the court that John B. Bolden and Thomas Hubbard give notice of their appointment as administrators of the estate of Peter Belleque by posting up notices in three of the most public places in the county.

The court then appointed H. Lebrun, Andrew Charlefois and Peter LaChance, appraisers of the goods, cattles and effects of the said Peter Belleque,

deceased, who being present took the oath required by law to be administered to appraisers.

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April 7, 1852

Thomas J. Hubbard as administrator of the said estate this day appeared and applied to the court for an order of temporary distribution of the personal property of said estate.

It was thereupon ordered by the court; first, that said administrator deliver over to the heirs such goods and chattles as belong to them in their own right as appears by the will.

2nd; That one third of the remaining property be bestowed upon the widow.

3rd; That of the residue \$800, be equally divided among the children as directed by said will and that the surplus of said residue be delivered to the oldest son, if said residue does not amount to \$800 then divide the full residue among the children equally.

Book 1 Page 127

April 7, 1852

And it appearing to the court that in order to carry into effect the previous order of temporary distribution in said estate it is necessary that a just and fair appraisement be made of the property to be divided.

It was thereupon ordered by the court that Hercule Lebrun, J. Baptiste Daquere and Robert Newell be and they are hereby appointed to act as appraisers of said property.

Inventory filed May 7, 1850, shows in part as follows:

1--Claim and improvements-----\$1500

(Personal property)

Total \$3154.50

Account of J.B. Bolden and T.J. Hubbard, Admsrs., of the estate of Peter Belleque

May 7, Inventory (Personal Property)-----\$3154.50

Filed May 7, 1850

Note-----

We find no further papers or journal entries on file with the papers of this estate. This is a copy from the records possessed by the heirs of J.G.W.Eberhard who bought the above donation land claim.

Note-----

Through the family legend Pierre I left by boat for the California gold rush. On the way home he was stricken by some "great fever" and was buried at sea; That is why his grave has never been found on land.

PETER BELLEQUE ESTATE
March 6, 1850

1 Claim and improvements	\$1,500.00
14 Cows @ \$25.00	350.00
9 Head 1 year old calves @ \$8.00	72.00
1 Bull	25.00
2 Oxen	100.00
Wheat	40.00
$\frac{1}{2}$ of one fanning mill	25.00
1 Shovel	1.50
1 Iron Fork	.75
$\frac{1}{2}$ Bushel measure	1.25
2 Horses, very old	50.00
3 Mares	80.00
2 Horses, Colts (1-2 yr. old, 1-1yr. old)	40.00
17 Head Hogs	136.00
1 Cart and Harness	40.00
1 Set of Harness for plough	12.00
1 Clock	5.00
Trunk and Chests	70.00
Cooking Utensils	15.00
Crockery	18.00
2 Beds	70.00
5 Augers	5.00
1 Grinding Stone	3.00
2 Axes	4.00
Small Tools	6.00
	\$ 2,719.50
1 Cross Cut Saw	8.00
1 Hand Saw and Draw Knife	3.00
1 Brace and Bits	4.00
1 Saddle	10.00
5 Chairs	5.00
2 Tables	5.00
Crop	400.00
	\$ 3,154.50

J.B.Z. Bolduc

Andre X Chalifou
PierreX LaChance

Hercule Lebrun
his signature.

LIST OF PERSONAL PROPERTY APPRAISED APRIL 9, 1852

5 Beaver Traps	x Genv. Gardipy*	\$ 7.50
1 Yoke Oxen	x Genv. Gardipy	80.00
1 Cow	x Genv. Gardipy	45.00
1 Calf	x Genv. Gardipy	10.00
1 Cow and Young Calf		50.00
1 Heifer, 2yr. old		30.00
1 Cow		32.00
1 Calf, 1yr. old		10.00
20 Hogs	x Genv. Gardipy	80.00
	1 Hog	
6 Hogs		48.00
1 Plough		15.00
Cart Irons	x Genv. Gardipy	10.00
Half Fanning Mill		20.00
1 Steel Fork	x Genv. Gardipy	1.00
½ Bushel Measure	x Genv. Gardipy	1.00
1 Scoop Shovel	x Genv. Gardipy	1.00
1 Indian Mare	x Genv. Gardipy	20.00
1 Bull		50.00
1 Clock	x Genv. Gardipy	5.00
1 Crosscut Saw		3.00
1 Old Set Plough Harness		10.00
1 Brace and Bits	x Genv. Gardipy	4.00
1 Hand Saw and Draw Share		2.00
		\$ 534.00

\$ 178.16

John Gearin
Clerk

Appraisers
Robert Newell
J.B. DeGuire
Hercule Lebrun

* Genevieve Belleque married Casimir Gardepie

Historical Society Learns New Aspects

A researcher is a detective. He or she is not hunting criminals, although crimes may be discovered as they go along. But a way of life which has been forgotten can be re-discovered by the fragments of even the dishes from which early people ate their food. Mrs. G.K. Austin, who lives near Champoege moved on a farm 25 years ago which was the location of the first trading post in the Willamette Valley.

Without realizing that she was creating an absorbing hobby she began to save the shards and pieces of dishes which the farm implements turned up in the fields. A school teacher friend suggested that she try to identify the patterns and makers of the dishes. One hundred different patterns have been named.

The study revealed that most of them were Spode and some of the patterns can be purchased today. When the Astorians arrived in the Columbia river in 1811 they had with them craftsmen and utensils to build in the wilderness the comforts which they had left behind in the East.

The Henry House, surprisingly, build of boards which stood on the Austin farm was lined with glazed chintz, a sample of which Mrs. Austin found. The fireplace was not crude like some of the early settlers who came across the plains built in their log cabins but had a fine hand-carved mantel. It was so beautiful that when Grandfather Austin built a new house in pioneer days he installed it in his living room. The ceiling beams are also hand-carved.

The Henry House was never a fort. After the Astor Company sold out to the Northwestern Fur Company it was used as a supply depot. Brigades going south, east or west stopped there to replenish their supplies. Many horses grazed in the surrounding meadows. Indians camped near to exchange their skins for Whiteman's trade goods. In the river the batteaus of the fur company men kept the waters of the Willamette churned up as they passed by.

Boxes of broken clay pipe stems and bowls which the Austins have found show that smoking was as popular then as now. In my own research I have learned that tobacco was held in such esteem by the Indians that it was the toll charge for passing through their rivers and territory. Whether the pipes were imported or made and fired locally has not yet been established.

Traders were not the only people who must have stopped at the Henry House. Several scientists, naturalists and botanists roamed the Valley before settlers came in any numbers. Missionary Jason Lee and his associates knew it well. We can surmise it may have been a gathering place for the earliest settlers, The French Canadians who took farms near in the earliest days of the Hudson's Bay Company.

It was the flood of 1861 which brought an end to the pleasant community life around the Henry House and nearby settlement of Champoege. While the Henry House was not swept away, an early writer said the water was 18 feet deep around it. All of Champoege except the Newell House were gone, and the settling silt covered all evidences of the civilization in that area. It took the plowshares of farmers who moved on the land later to turn up the fragments which, pieced together, form the picture of life almost 150 years ago along our familiar river. A good crowd listened to Mrs. Austin's interesting talk and examined the broken dishes she showed along with whole specimens which she has obtained to show what the original dishes were like.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, WASHINGTON

In reply please refer to: 1747154 "B"

Register, Roseburg, Oregon

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of November 9, 1938, relating to the correct status as shown by the records here, of lots 7 and 8 s $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec 33, T.3s, R.2W and Lots 7, 8, 11, and 12 Sec. 4, T. 4S. R. 2W., W.M., Oregon.

An examination of the tract book and other records reveals that Lot 7, 8, 11, and 12, Sec. 4, containing 82.31 acres, were entered as a homestead by Geo. Eberhard Jan. 1, 1871, Oregon City application No. 1722. Patent for the land issued in the entryman's name, August 30, 1876, Oregon City final certificate, Oregon City 873, issued Jan. 17, 1871 to George Eberhard for the fractional S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, and Lots 7 & 8 Sec. 33, T.3S, R. 2W., containing 175.16 acres. Patent thereon issued Dec. 1, 1871.

Relative to the question as to whether or not the above described land was patented to Genevieve (Belleque) Gardepy, widow of Peter Belleque, under claim 71, notification 767, you are informed that this claim notification cannot be found in the files of this office, but a letter of the Commissioner to the Oregon City Register and Receiver, dated December 22, 1870, reads in part as follows:

"I have examined the Donation Case of Genevieve Gardepy, referred to this office with your report dated Nov. 30, 1867, and find the following to be the facts as shown by the papers in the case.

"Genevieve Gardepy was formerly the wife of Peter Belique, who settled on the land in question in 1831, and continued to reside thereon until October 1849, at which latter date he died, leaving his widow Genevieve residing on the claim. On the 25th of November, 1850 the said Genevieve was married to one Casimir Gardepy and subsequent to her marriage with Gardepy on the 27th of August filed her notification, claiming a Donation of 320 acres, as the widow of said Belique, proving residence and cultivation by Jos. Dupard state in your report that there is no evidence that said Genevieve became a widow after her marriage with Gardepy, but on the contrary it appears that he is still living and application having been made for a certificate in favor of said Genevieve Gardepy, you refused the same, being of the opinion, and so deciding, that she "is not of the class of persons" entitled to the Donation privilege separate from her husband under the Act of 27th Sept. 1850, or amendments thereto.

Peter Belique having died in 1849, acquired no rights under the Act of 1850, which could descend to the benefit of his widow or heirs, and she having remarried prior to the passage of the Amendatory Act of the 14th February, 1853, is estopped from claiming the benefits of the 8th Section of that Act which provides for donations to widows under certain circumstances—your decision, therefore, is approved."

Also the letter of the Register at Oregon City to the commissioner of the General office, January 21, 1871, referring to the decision of that office reads:

"Land Office"
Oregon City, Oregon
January 21, 1871.

"Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 22nd ult. approving the decision of this office against the validity of the claim of Genevieve Gardepy, formerly Genevieve Belique, widow and the heirs at law Peter Belique dec. per notification No. 767—claim No. 67, part of Sec. 33, T.3S1,

R.2W., and claim No.71, part of Sec. 4, T.4S, R.2W., have to report that Mr. George Eberhard, who for a valuable consideration, purchased the claim many years since, 1859 and at whose instance the case was taken up has been notified of your decision, and has informed this office that no appeal will be taken.

"Mr. Eberhard, filed his preemption declaratory statement on the 16th January 1864 for a part of the land embraced in said claim, and on that 9th Nov. 1867 offered proof and payment therefor. "We have now allowed his entry."

Very respectfully, You ob't Serv't Owen Wade, Register

PIERRE BELLEQUE

PIERRE BELLEQUE claims 640 acres of land in Champoeg county situated near Champoeg called the lower prairie, as follows: To West commencing at the N.W. corner at the cottonwood tree marked with claimants name on So. side being the corner of Frank Despard's line a little short of two miles to an oak tree marked on the bank of a small creek called Church creek, thence along said creek about half a mile to the corner of St. Martin's line, then along said Martins line one mile and along Lucier line one mile to the S.W. corner on the Willamette a red fir marked, then down said river to the place of beginning, which he holds by personal occupancy. July 22, 1846.

Fold C, Prigg Recorder

DESCENDANTS of SETTLERS STILL WORK FRENCH PRAIRIE'S RICH SOIL

By Ellis Lucia

If you like poking about storehouses of early Oregon history, you'll find no better place than beautiful French Prairie. This is the adopted homeland of the colorful French voyageurs, where they settled down to stay--before the covered wagon.

The rollicking Catholic trappers, scouts and bateauman who sang their way across the continent were a "must" for any frontier expedition. They were adventure loving and had seen a lot of country. Yet when it came to a final choice, they selected the rich rolling valley land in the big bend of the Willamette.

French Prairie isn't a town. It's a broad rural area bounded roughly by the Willamette river on the north and west, the Pudding river on the east, and stretching south almost to Salem. Outwardly, it hasn't changed much since those early trappers fell in love with it. Their direct descendants will till the dark soil and tend cattle where the grass grows shoulder high. The great swells of land are dotted with dark clumps of stately firs. Quail and pheasant dash here and there. The air is heavy with the aroma of wild clover. Names of the first settlers like Gervais, Belleque and LaBonte are still familiar ones. And, the entire region is so bountiful with early Oregon lore that even those residing there are only vaguely aware of its existence.

A long sought state highway historical marker may be seen two miles west of Champoege on the site of the original Astor fur trading post and the first farms.

On French Prairie's backroads are surprises around every bend. The tall spires of St. Paul and St. Louis churches tower against the sky. Rustic farm homes and stately mansions stand formidably back from the roads, among the trees. Crucial sessions of the provisional government were held in those massive living rooms with their great fireplaces, surrounded by stout beams and heavy walls built to last generations.

Where the new Newberg-St. Paul highway crosses to the river's south bank, the Astor company established in 1812 the original settlement, known as the Willamette trading post. Men who arrived aboard the ill-fated "Tonquin" (Michael LaFramboise was one) or trekked west with the Hunt expedition were stationed here. They trapped and traded with the Indians, then remained on when the British Northwest company took over in 1813. They were still there a decade later when Dr. John McLoughlin arrived.

West of the highway cutoff, in what is now Bill Smith's strawberry field, Etienne Lucier established the first farm in 1828 with Dr. McLoughlin's blessing. The first valley wheat was grown here. Pierre Belleque, who came west with the Northwest Fur company, was also there, living in buildings of the old trading post. Belleque began farming land adjacent to Lucier. Farther south near Fairfield, Joseph Gervais established his farm home of logs and later operated a grist mill. An old apple tree dates from Gervais' day.

In picturesque St. Paul you may easily locate the marker listing some of the early Astor men buried there, including two who came with Lewis and Clark--Phillippe Decre and Francois Rivet. Little cemeteries throughout French Prairie mark the trail's end for others who first settled Oregon. The names have a musical sound--Laderoute, Dorion, Dubriel, Jacquet, Parrault... They paved the way for the pioneers, serving as guides, interpreters, messengers and explorers. They aided the botanist David Douglas, and the missionary Father Francis Norbert Blanchet.

Madame Marie Dorion was the Sacajawea of the overland Astor expedition. Her husband, Pierre, was the interpreter. There's a marker to her memory in the St. Louis church, placed there in 1935 by the Oregon chapter of the Daughters of 1812. She is believed buried nearby, perhaps beneath the church.

Not far distant, Felix A. Choquette, great grandson of Etienne Lucier, lives quietly. Choquette has a proud possession--Lucier's traps, brought west in 1811-1812 and still in good working order. There's no telling what other French Prairie homes might yield in the way of similar historic relics.

A note about the writer of this article---
Ellis Lucia is the author of the Saga
of Ben Holladay (Hastings House), a biography
of the great Overland Stage proprietor and
Oregon railroad builder who lies in Mt.
Calvary cemetery, Portland. Holladay's big
estate in upper New York is now Manhattanville
College of the Sacred Heart.

Among the interesting and historic spots in the Willamette Valley is a knoll two miles long and a quarter of a mile wide on the south side of the river about two miles above Champoeg Park. It will be the location of the highway approach to the new bridge to Newberg on Highway 219.

As early as 1811, men from the Astor Expedition had come to the Willamette Valley and by 1812 had built a house on Wallace Prairie, (which has no marker) about a mile north of the Salem city boundary, and a trading post on this knoll near the present city of Newberg. These men found game so plentiful and conditions more favorable for providing a living that they used this post for curing meat for those stationed at Astoria as well as trading with the Indians.

In January, 1814 Mr. Alexander Henry visited this Fort. He was the Commandant of the Northwest Fur Company and his nephew William Henry was in charge of this Willamette Post until 1816. When Mr. Alexander Henry arrived he found his nephew with Mr. Seton, a clerk, thirty men, and two huts of freemen and hunters. The natives of this quarter were also at the house. The Fort was active only a few years but it served as a trading post, and supplied much elk, goat, bear, and wild fowl for the Fort George, as Old Fort Astoria was called by the Northwest Company.

After the Hudson's Bay Company merged with the Northwest Company in 1821, and Dr. John McLoughlin was in charge at Fort Vancouver, many of these Astorians who came in 1811 or 1812 were living with their native wives and families, some employed by Hudson Bay Company and some were freemen. They desired to settle on the land and repeatedly applied to Dr. McLoughlin for implements, stock and seeds, but it was against the policy of the company to allow any to settle. Finally Dr. McLoughlin explained to the Governor in London that these men might attach themselves to competitive companies and would become a menace.

Etienne Lucier, who came overland with the Wilson Price Hunt Expedition of the Astor Company, arriving in 1812, was among those who were allowed to settle as farmers, along with Gervais and LaBonte and others. Wheat, barley, peas and potatoes were furnished them for planting as well as implements and some livestock. They were required to have fifty pounds sterling before they were granted permission to become settlers and the provisions were only a loan. Lucier settled and farmed on this historic knoll by the river. Soon Pierre Belleque of the earlier fur company settled beside him just to the east, occupying the old Fur Trading Post, about 1831. Here they lived and farmed and raised their families as close friends and prominent citizens for many years.

In 1834, McLoughlin had a grist mill where Mission Creek and Champoeg Creek join and he also erected a large warehouse where the Champoeg State Park is today, for many farms were soon established in the surrounding country now known as "French Prairie". Farming and wheat marketing became the major enterprise. The town of Champoeg was a result of the activity of the settlers as a trading and meeting place and it became a stopping place for missionaries and travelers. When Jason Lee arrived in 1834, he stopped to procure horses. Samuel K. Parker visited here as also did Slocum of the U.S. Navy. In his report in 1836 he lists Lucier and Belleque as well as many other settlers and their holdings. Lucier had 70 acres of land, 45 acres cultivated, 740 bushels of wheat, 21 horses, 45 hogs, 4 houses and 1 grist mill. Belleque had 50 acres of land, 45 acres cultivated, 700 bushels of wheat, 9 horses, 28 hogs and two houses. Gervais had 125 acres of land, 65 acres cultivated, 1,000 bushels of wheat, 19 horses, 55 hogs, 3 houses and 1 grist mill.

Lucier and Belleque were on the committee that went to Fort Vancouver to meet the priest coming from Canada in the fall of 1838.

Lucier was born in Canada in 1793. He married a native wife and had a family of about 8 children. His daughter, Felicity, married Donald Manson who bought Robert Newell's holding at Champoege. In the diptheria epidemic in 1840, his wife died and her grave and that of one child are on the knoll where his dwelling was, but are now obliterated. Lucier married again and had two sons. He died in 1853 and was buried at St. Paul. His widow and two sons were still living on the place during the flood of 1861.

Belleque also was born in Canada in 1797. He married Genevieve St. Martin, a halfbreed. A family of 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls were raised. He was one of the first constables to serve under the Provisional Government.

He took his eldest son, Peter, with him to the gold fields of California but became afflicted with the disease which attacked so many. As he was returning by ship he died and was buried at sea just off the mouth of the Columbia River in October of 1849. Father Delorme who had accompanied the large group of settlers to California was returning on the same vessel and was also afflicted. It was thought the Asiatic Cholera could have been brought by the sailors of trading vessels who also became gold seekers, and spread the scourge which claimed the lives of 40 of the citizens, 20 being heads of families.

Belleque had left a will which is in the Marion County Book of Wills, No. 1, Page 1. It was written in French and translated by Father Boluc.

During the visit of Lt. Wilkes of the U.S. Navy in 1841 the citizens met with him to discuss the need for some form of government. Among the needs was title to their land. He assured them the U.S. Government would make provisions to honor their claims to the land and in 1850 the Land Grant Act allowing 320 acres to settlers was passed. By 1853 an amendment was made to provide for widows of settlers and immigrants.

The story of the Pierre Belleque claim on the site of that first fur trading post in the Willamette Valley which they farmed for over 25 years and for which they received no title, the struggle to clear the title during the next 30 years is an interesting example of probably many other unfortunate cases.

In 1850, Widow Belleque married Casimir Gardepie. In 1857, they sold their 320 acre farm for \$2,600 to Sylvain Bourjeau, later he sold to his son Jean Baptiste Bourjeau.

In 1860, J. George Eberhard, a young man from Michigan, who had come by way of the Isthmus of Panama to California and after 4 or 5 years freighting and farming there had come by boat to Oregon. He made three cash transactions at Champoege on the 28th of September. He paid Jean B. Bourjeau \$400. and received a deed for the 320 acres of land that was known as the Belleque farm. He paid Allan, McKinley & Company \$300. to buy their Mortgage and received a deed to the 320 acres. These deeds are all recorded in Book No. 4, Pages 552 and 553, October 11, 1860 and refer to the same 320 tract of land. The above transactions show that Mr. Eberhard paid \$1,500. for his 320 acres and he was living in the old house of Belleques at the time of the flood in 1861. The house was saved from going completely away with the flood waters and was anchored on a higher piece of ground and remained for years. In 1865, Mr. Eberhard married the eldest daughter of his neighbor on the east, Stokley L. Jones, a pioneer from Iowa in 1852. They lived in the old house until 1869 when they moved into their new house now standing on the old farm but near the county road. The mantle and window frames and a few doors were used from the old house. Barbara was one of the children born in the original old house where it was anchored after the flood. She is past 88 years of age and still resides on the east half of the Belleque claim with her daughter while her son, G. K. Austin, and his family work the land and manage a dairy.

When the Donation Land Grant Act and office of Surveyor General became effective and the rush of immigrants came in 1852 the land office at Oregon City was busy recording notifications of the older citizens applications for the title to their land but it appears to have taken over 12 to 14 years, and in some cases more, to obtain results. Records show that the government issued several final Patents to the settlers in this area in 1866. Widow Lucier received hers, Stokely L. Jones received his, Andre' Lontain(at the location of the Park and vicinity) received his and many others at that time.

But the records show that in 1867 an inquiry was made as to why there was not a Patent issued to Genevieve Gardepie-the widow of Pierre Belleque and the answer was as follows:

"Pierre Belleque having died in 1849 acquired no rights under the Act of 1850 which could descend to the benefit of his widow or heirs and ahe remarried prior to the passage of the Amending Act of 14th February, 1853, is estopped from claiming the benefits of the 8th Section of that Act which provides for donations to widows under certain circumstances."

So upon examining his title to his tract of land Mr. Eberhard found that one piece was in District of Lands, subject to public sale at Oregon City and he paid cash for 175.16 acres in November 1867. His deed signed by U.S. Grant's secretary was not issued until 1871. He bought 41.45 acres from the California Railroad Company for \$93.25 receiving a deed in 1876. Another part, 82.31 acres was homestead land for which he received his deed the same year; and in 1884 he bought another piece, homesteaded and deeded to someone else, but the deed was not delivered until 1888. It therefore took 28 years to obtain title to the 320 acre farm which he thought he bought in 1860 for \$1500 cash.

Ownership of the western part of that historic knoll on which Etienne Lucier lived, passed from his widow and heirs soon after the flood of 1861. In 1870 the family of Barnhard Eberhard from Butteville, an uncle of George Eberhard, bought and operated the farm for many years.

At present Walter J. Gearin owns the knoll where the new road has been surveyed and it has been recommended that a suitable marker be placed beside the highway where interested persons can note the location of the first fur trading post in the Willamette Valley, and later the home of two men who helped form our first government.

The importance to Northwest history of the Astor expedition cannot be overlooked. As Thomas Jefferson said: "On the waters of the Pacific we can find no claim in right of Louisiana: If we claim the country at all, it must be on Astor's settlement near the mouth of the Columbia River."

In 1813, his words in tribute to Astor, "I view it (Astoria) as the germ of a great free independent empire and that liberty and self government spreading from that, as well as this side, will insure their complete establishment over the whole. It must still be more gratifying to yourself to foresee that your name will be handed down with that of Columbus and Raleigh as the founder of such an Empire."-- Thomas Jefferson.

The Stuart party from the Astor expedition arriving in St. Louis in 1813 reported that wagons could be brought across the continent. Publicity for this idea was the start of the overland movement.

As H.M. Chittenden said, "The two Astor Expeditions are entitled to the credit of having practically opened up the Oregon Trail from the Missouri River at the mouth of the Kansas to the mouth of the Columbia.

The trail breakers were the Astor Men.

The first establishments for fur trade were built by the Astor Men.

The first farmers were the Astorians.

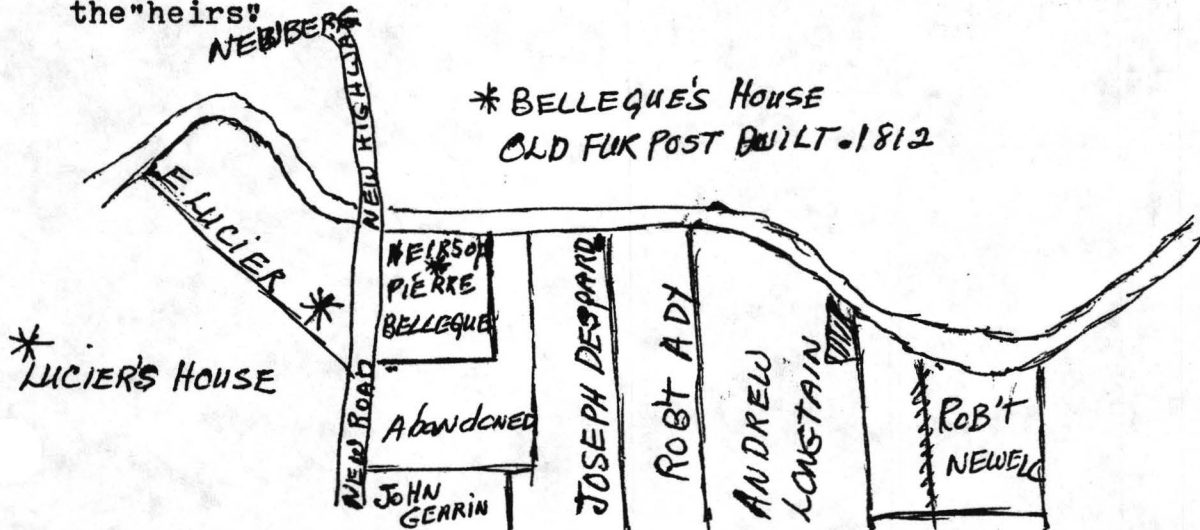
Our whole Northwest Country owes much to the perserverance and pioneering of these men. Marion County is the site of two of these Astorian posts and it remains important at this time for markers to be furnished by the highway commission to preserve this early history for future generations.

This article written by Helen E. Austin. Taken from the publication "CHAMPOEG PIONEER" August 1956

Mrs. Wm. Irvine,
17007 S.E. Oatfield Rd.
Milwaukie, Oregon.

Dear Mrs. Irvine,

To answer your question about the Belleque deeds to the Bourjeaus- Yes, they were recorded. And I want to explain that my article was written before I learned for sure that Belleque had held 640 acres. I always noticed the map of 1852 looked like this enclosed picture, and finally discovered the explanation, which really adds to the story and verifies the part of the story the Belleque family always claimed the government took their grandfather's land away from them. Now I understand they did take the part marked "abandoned" away from the family since he had died prior to the land grant act and would allow her no claim since she married again--but on the survey map they marked 320 acres as "heirs of Pierre Belleque," but our abstract shows no government title was issued, even to the "heirs."



The abandoned 320 acres was bought by Stokely L. Jones who paid \$100 to John and Susanna Hood for their cabin in 1855 and became the donation land claim of S.L. Jones.

The 320 acres marked "heirs" was the piece concerned in the article I wrote. All records are in Marion County-Records book #2 of deeds -page 76 recorded August 30, 1857.

Deed from Casimir Gardepie and wife, Genevieve (Jany) to Sylvain Bourjeau for 320 acres for sum of \$2600. Sale dated June 1857.

April 1858 shows a mortgage given by Sylvain Bourjeau to Allan McKinley and Company of Champoege for \$200.

Recorded book 2 page 141-1858 Jan. 1859-Sylvain Bourjeau sold for \$300. the east half of the farm to his son Jean Baptiste Bourjeau.

Deed recorded Sept. 1859 Book 4, page 128.

Sept. 12, 1859 Sylvain Bourjeau sold west half of farm also to his son; Jean Baptiste for \$500.

Deed recorded Book #4 page 130, Sept. 13, 1859.

March 2, 1860 a deed made by Sylvain and J.B. Bourjeau to Archibald McKinley and wife Sarah Julia for 320 acres for sum of \$781.

Recorded Mar. 13, 1860 Book 4-page 361. Mr. Joshua George Washington Eberhard made three cash transactions Sept. 28, 1860 at Champoege and received deeds from Allan McKinlay and Co. to 320 acres for \$300. paid.

From Arch. McKinlay and his wife Sarah Julia for 320 acres for \$800. paid.

From Jean B. Bourjeau and wife for 320 acres for \$400. paid-Oct. 11, 1860 all recorded Book #4 pages 552 and 553.

Original deeds all in our family file.

In regard to William Cannon or Canning-I can add nothing, but to refer you to two family members of Pierre II who might be able to help if they would contact othe members of their family. A Mrs. Everett Parker Rt. 1 Woods, Oregon was the step grandchild of Pierre II and he lived out his declining years in her home at Woods. She told me she wrote his letters for him in his late years. He was educated at St. Joseph's Academy at St. Paul. There are two elderly grandsons of Pierre II living at Cloverdale also who might know some of the family stories. And a younger woman, Mrs. Ray Jenkins (Louise Belleque) Rt. 1, Box 756, Dallas, Oregon, also a granddaughter, who has searched family records regarding their lineage and she would probably be able to tell you if Joseph St. Martin was Genevieve's father and if Jean Baptiste Gardepie was Casimir's father.

It is said that Genevieve and Casimir lived out their days in Eastern Oregon. (Pilot Rock) with a grand daughter Mrs. Rose Portwood, Walla Walla, Washington. 5 S. 4th Ave. She might know about Casimir's father's name.

If you could find out I would enjoy knowing the answers also.

The marker for the Old Willamette Post also known as the "Henry House" is made, and possibly will be dedicated July 11, which date might be changed. I would like to know where Andre' St. Martin comes in? If he is a son If he is a son of Joseph-and if Joseph was the St. Martin or Martin who was with David Thompson on his trip down the Columbia. And where can I find the roll of Overland Astorians listed at Mackinac? Was that Porter's list? I have never been able to place Belleque with the Astor expedition. Nor Andrew Longtain altho' some think they both were. Many of our questions can never be answered.

There is a record of a Provisional land claim by a St. Martin, between Lucier and Perrault. I sure wish some one would make a map of those records. 'twould be some job:

Other members of the Belleque family are listed: Daughter: SOPHIE, born 1832-married Narcisse Cornoyer-1851. Children: Marie-1852, Joseph Clovis-1854. The Cornoyers also went to Eastern Oregon. Son: PIERRE, born 1836, married Mary Ann Gagnon-Mar. 5, 1869. (Mother's people were Gregoire) Their family were as follows: William-Oct. 1869, died Jan. 1870, Gilbert-1871 Married Sarah Fayas, Maria Clementia-1873-married DeMacon. Rose Maria, 1874 lived three months.

Clementine DeMacon has a daughter Mrs. Louise Melum, Toledo, Oregon who could give you the family history also. Mr. Duniway helped her a great deal.

More members of Pierre and Genevieve Belleque's family: Genevieve, born 1838, married Felix Gregoire in 1857. Esther born 1840 married Joseph Hibert (Hubert) in 1859. They moved to Eastern Oregon. Cyforien (Cyprian) married Julianne Bergevin in 1873. This family living around French Prairie and elsewhere.

Jean Baptiste born 1845 married Victoire Vassal in 1871.

Hope this will help you, Best Wishes--Helen Austin (Mrs. George Austin)*

* We really don't know where Genevieve and Casimir are buried. The family said Pilot Rock. When I was there I tried to find out with no results.

*Mrs. George Austin still lives on the property once owned by Pierre Belleque, a small part of it. Bill and I went to see her in July-1987 and she said her son was buying all of the property back again.

Lorraine DeMacon Holmes

COPY--

National Archives &
Records Service
Washington 25,D.C.
April 7,1959

Mrs. William Irvine
17001 S.E. Oatfield Road
Milwaukie,Oregon.

Dear Mrs. Irvine:

In your letter of March 26, 1959 you requested information concerning a cancelled Oregon Donation Land Notification.

Cancelled Notification No. 767,Oregon City, Oregon is among the records of the former General Land Office now in the National Archives. This file shows that Peter Belique was born in Canada in or about the year 1793* that he was intermarried to Genecieve Belique in Marion County, Oregon, in January 1839;and that he had made his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States on April 4, 1849, before the clerk of the circuit court in and for Clackamas County, Oregon. The record also shows that Peter Belique died aboard ship in October 1849 while enroute from San Francisco to Oregon, leaving six children whose names are not given, Mr. Belique appears to have left Oregon in September,1848,*to go to California. Included with the Notification papers is a certificate dated November 11,1867, stating that Reverend M. Cenas, parish priest of St. Paul mission, Marion County, Oregon married on November 25,1850 Casimir Gardepy and Widow Genevieve Belique of Champaig.(Champoeg).

The cancelled Notifications for Oregon Donation Land Claims are arranged by the name of the pertinent land office and there under by the number of the notification. There is no alphabetical name index for these cancelled notifications as there is for the issued donations certificates.

Negative photostatic copies of Cancelled Notification No. 767 Oregon City, Oregon(Comprising 14 pages) can be furnished for \$.40 per page or positive (xerograph) reproductions for \$15. per page. If you wish to make your remittance to the National Archives and Record Service by check or money order payable to the General Services Administration.

Sincerely yours,
Jane F.Smith

*

Pierre Belleque left for the gold fields in May,1849.
We have a baptisimal record saying that he was born Jan.9,1797.
Lorraine Holmes

The first Autumn of his residence at the mission, the doctor, having a patient afflicted with a threatening tumor, it became necessary that he should consult with his fellow physician, Dr. Tolmie and for that purpose visited Fort Vancouver. Five days after, the man being pronounced out of danger, Dr. White started on his return.

Passing the portage at the falls with little difficulty, with the assistance of the natives he hastened on, exceedingly anxious to reach home, as his absence had already been of greater length than he had anticipated, and little Silas was in delicate health. As they passed rapidly forward the crew in fine spirits, their attention was attracted by a couple of Indians on horseback, issuing from the woods on the right. The curly headed negro pilot gave them a hearty salute and inquiry, the doctor learned that they were immediately from the mission and that by land the distance was not as great as by the river and might be made in half the time. The route was represented as plain and safe and it required but little information to induce the doctor to endeavor to find his way home on horseback and therefore accomplishing with his tawny friends, the loan of a horse and bidding his company adieu he set off filled with high hopes of reaching home and family that evening. The direction lay south-westerly over a long range of high hills, in a tortuous, ancient path, and he had not proceeded far, when he found now and then another harassing and a little farther on this embarrassment was increased by the day, fallen leaves obscuring the trail, till at length the traveller became totally uncertain whether or not he was on a trail, and if so whether if it was the right one. In complete bewilderment he stopped and gazed almost hopelessly around when to his joy, he saw an Indian matron perhaps sixty years of age advancing toward him. He accosted her and inquired the way to Champoege, the nearest point to his mission. She shook her head, not comprehending his meaning and articulated a few words by which her questioner was as much puzzled as she had been at his. He essayed a reply but it was useless, as she could no more understand his Greek than he could understand her Hebrew. After several fruitful attempts at conversation met by her with suspicious shyness, they separated, the Doctor regretting and half vexed that the interview should have been so unsatisfactory. The shadows of night began to gather and troubled thoughts to cloud his mind. He went on or rather groped his way along, until he emerged into a prairie when the poor jaded pony was so exhausted that his rider concluded to walk, which he did for

several miles when weak with hunger as well as fatigue, he mounted. On again entering the woods he once more dismounted and led the horse which much impeded his progress; the tired creature was tormented by hunger and stumbled along from side to side, snatching now and then a nibble from the thick undergrowth. Intending to reach home that night, he had freed himself from all incumbrance and was therefore unprovided with blanket, gun, flint or food. Clothed in a light summer suit, unfitted to protect him from the penetrating night damps. He pushed on until dense darkness closed around him, and he was no longer able to trace a path, and now became seriously alarmed fearing that he was irretrievably lost in that vast wilderness, and if so, in what a miserable condition. No food and no means for procuring it. Putting aside the thought as quickly as possible he pressed manfully forward, till from weariness, darkness and gnawing hunger having eaten nothing but a few dried berries, which he found still clinging to the bushes, since morning. It was impossible to go any farther. Then he hallooed with all his strength and listened with straining ears for an answer which he hoped might reach him from the settlement. The old forest reverberated sounds and the echoes went and returned. Exposed to the cold he was thoroughly chilled and benumbed. He descended with great difficulty and when attempting by friction to restore circulation to his arms, he found them more than the rest of his frame void of sensation. Fear of wild animals for some time deterred his aim for leaving the tree; but he was convinced that if he remained in his present lodging he must surely be chilled to death before morning. He chose rather to secure even a doubtful chance of safety. He could not kindle a fire, but some means must be resorted to secure himself danger of beasts, and he therefore groped about the ground collecting brush and fern. He then threw himself down on the roots of a tree and covering his form with these materials as a blanket with the useful saddle for a pillow once more composed himself to rest.

In a while the sleeper was startled by the cry of some wild animal of the wildcat species, which continued to echo round him in all directions, and a certain reflection connected with this did not tend to soothe his fears. He knew he must be somewhere in the vicinity of a spot, the scene of an anecdote he had often heard related by one of his neighbors: "This man stated that he had been attacked in open day by a dozen large wolves and only escaped by clambering into a roots of a tree which Providence seem to have thrown his way, and with the contents of his gun

killing five of them. This was as credible as one half of the hunter stories, told to wonder seeking "Verdant Ones" and the one thing is certain that he then believed it quite as much as he did the next morning with the light of sun around him, and when the morning came, which was the Sabbath probably entertained fewer scruples than ever before, with regard to Sunday traveling, this one in particular and in due time placing the saddle upon the horse, which had remained unharmed, again mounted.

The trail as the night before was very obscure, being much obstructed by fallen timber, and his progress was slow. Between 9 and 10 o'clock he began to ascend a high hill or rather a mountain, from the atmosphere to suspect he was nearing the Pacific Ocean instead of the settlement. This was not a pleasant reflection as the Indians upon that part of the coast were particularly hostile and treacherous. For sometime the bewildered man toiled on, seeing no end to difficulties, till by the appearances of the sun he was convinced that he was going decidedly in the wrong direction and determined taking the orb for his guide to wheel about and retrace his steps if possible and by doing so, strange as it may seem, six hours later found him upon the banks of the Willamette, a short distance from the spot whence he set out on his ill starred-journey. Here he stood after twenty four hours; wandering in true woe-begone plight uncertain what course to pursue, as he might remain there for weeks and not a canoe pass or meeting with any opportunity to reach home. The pony was completely fatigued utterly unable to carry him any further, and himself in little better condition, even had he known what direction to take. His cogitations were most painful but he had him but a brief space when he heard the faint stroke of a paddle. It was repeated and now the only anxiety was whether it was going from or coming towards him. A few minutes and a canoe rounded the point, and coming towards him, and to his joy he discovered its occupants to be one of his neighbors, Mrs. Bilake*, a youth named Lucia and an Indian crew. As they approached within a short distance, Mrs. Bilake until then scarcely recognizing the stranger, elevated both hands, and in broken English, for she was a half-breed explained "Cah Masica Chareo, is it you my friend? Where did you come from? Is it you Tector?" He replied to the good woman that if she would give him a bite to eat she would know the whole. She raised both hands as before, and with a look of consternation, informed him that they had been absent

* Mrs. Bilake would be Genevieve Belleque, wife of Pierre I.

from home for a week and expecting to reach home that evening had eaten their last remnant of food about half mile below. Observing the petitioner's look of blank disappointment, which was very pitiable, she remarked that her nephew had shot a duck just before and enquired if he could eat it without any seasoning. The Doctor was a little surprised not to say chagrined at such a question at the moment that he could eagerly devour anything that was eatable and replied instantly without considering the sex of the listener, "Why, yes, feathers and all." She laughed merrily at the expression and said in her own language, "Oh, that is too bad, but I guess we can fix you something." Accordingly, the fowl was stripped, quartered and prepared for the kettle; and although the fire burned briskly, it was then, if ever, that the hungry man realized the truth of the trite saying, "A watched pot never boils." When it was done, he seized upon it and never was a duck dispatched in less time by one person and it was a most delicious morsel, for it seemed but a morsel. While thus engaged, his kind friend prepared a bed for him in the canoe and she afterward used to laugh as she told that his head hardly touched the blanket pillow, ere he was snoring lustily. They arrived at her residence about midnight, and hardly stepped inside the door when she called a slave boy and commanded him to catch up a racehorse immediately. Meanwhile she set before her visitor milk, pork, potatoes and bread. He had just finished the repast, when the horse galloped into the yard. Mrs. Bilake, then led him to the door, and with a tearful eye and quivering lip said, "Mrs. White is not from frightened to death about you, I have ordered a good horse for you, do not spare him, return to your family as fast as he can carry you. With a grateful heart he mounted the gallant steed. He bounded off in the calm light of the full moon; and about three o'clock he arrived at the mission and enjoyed the happiness of embracing his family who had become very much alarmed at his prolonged absence.

This article was written in 1848-Compiled by Miss A.J.Allen

A story printed in the Oregonian, August 25, 1894 describes a great fire around Nestucca Bay in 1845. The Oregonian evidently received its information from an interview with Peter Belleque, a fisherman born on French Prairie in 1836. It states that Belleque "threw light upon the origin of the great forest conflagration of 1845, not hitherto published." Nigger Johnson had set fire to a slashing on his ranch near Champoege. The fire was fanned by a hot dry wind day and night. It spread to the summit of the Cascades and in the other direction crossed the Coast Range to the ocean. The dense smoke was said to have made navigation of the Oregon coast so dangerous that ships remained at the mouth of the Columbia. Belleque quoted Dick Harna, an Indian with whom he had talked some years previously. Harna had been chief of the Nestuccas along the coast at the time of the fire. His tribe had then been camped near Woods, in Tillamook County. When the fire came, after several smoky days, the Indians had to leave all their belongings in order to escape down the river. Another band of Indians retreated to Sand Lake, six miles to the North. There were no whites in that part of the country, according to the chief.

The vast deforested area today covered only with ferns, brush and scattered young trees in the hills along the highway between Willamina and Hebo marks the course of a fire known from the trees ages to have occurred about 1845. The exact extent of this fire is uncertain, because later fires have destroyed part of the evidence of the original fire. W.H. Meyer and P.D. Kemp, of the Pacific northwest forest experiment station, state that the forest indicates an old fire reaching from the Trask River-Nestucca River divide and Northwestern Yamhill County, south to Siletz Bay, covering about 380,000 acres. Although the Indian's story and the location of the 80 year old timber are in agreement the date of 1845 given by Peter Belleque would seem to be contradicted by the account of Talbot, who, when he crossed the lower end of this Nestucca fire zone four years later found no fire signs but much dense forest. It is possible, however, that the lower end of the present 80-year-old timber zone was not deforested until the occurrence of a second fire, which may have started several years later in the weeds and ferns on the original burned land.

This article was taken from "Oregon Historical Quarterly Vol. 35-1934
Pages 318 & 319

* This was Pierre Belleque II. He would have been 58 years of age when he told this story.

Dear Cousin Lorraine & family,

We received your letter and were glad to hear from you. I remember when you called here and were camped at Cape Lookout. We also remember, several years ago, your parents and several children and ourselves went down on the bay for crabs, and had a picnic dinner there. I remember your twins, and now your brother also has a boy and a girl. With already several girls, no doubt, they were happy that one was a boy. I am glad your mother is feeling better. The trip will do her good.

We hear from Anne quite often and I think she prefers living in the states, especially now since Lee has left them, and returned to Oregon. The winters are so cold there-strong cold winds.

I want to put one thing straight-and that is Everett, my husband is living, and ^{NCT} passed away, a couple months ago, as you had heard. He does have heart trouble and has not worked, such as sawing wood, now, for about a month, as its best that he doesn't exercise too much. He drives the car, but our farthest distance for the past year, is Tillamook, a distance of 28 or 30 miles. So we don't go very much only between our places and around here. In fact, we prefer to remain quiet and at home. There is always plenty to do at both places for both of us.

I have always been sorry that your mother, Grandmother, Anne and Lee didn't get to come and spend some time at the coast. At the time it seems they couldn't all get away at the same time. And Ray Scheckel wouldn't let Lee come either.

You mentioned an acquaintance of a Mrs. Wm. Irvine had asked you to write to me-if I remembered Grandpa, Peter Belleque, ever talking of a William Cannon, who had lived on the French Prairie.

I can recall the name Cannon, but being so long ago, I can't remember or even think of anything connected with the name Cannon now. But if he served in the Revolutionary War, it seems to me the War Dep't would have some record, through his service pay.

This first son-Grandpa, Peter Belleque named William died at 3 months of age, you mentioned in your letter, is something new to me. I've never heard it before. But I do remember hearing that he had lost his youngest child, a baby son, soon after birth, as well as his wife at childbirth. This was something we heard many times from both Grandpa and Dad also. Dad always seemed to feel the loss of that brother, and often expressed the wish his brother could have lived.*

* According to the church records the first child was a boy named William that died at three months. The fourth child was a girl that died about eight months. The mother had died at the birth of this child.

Lorraine Holmes

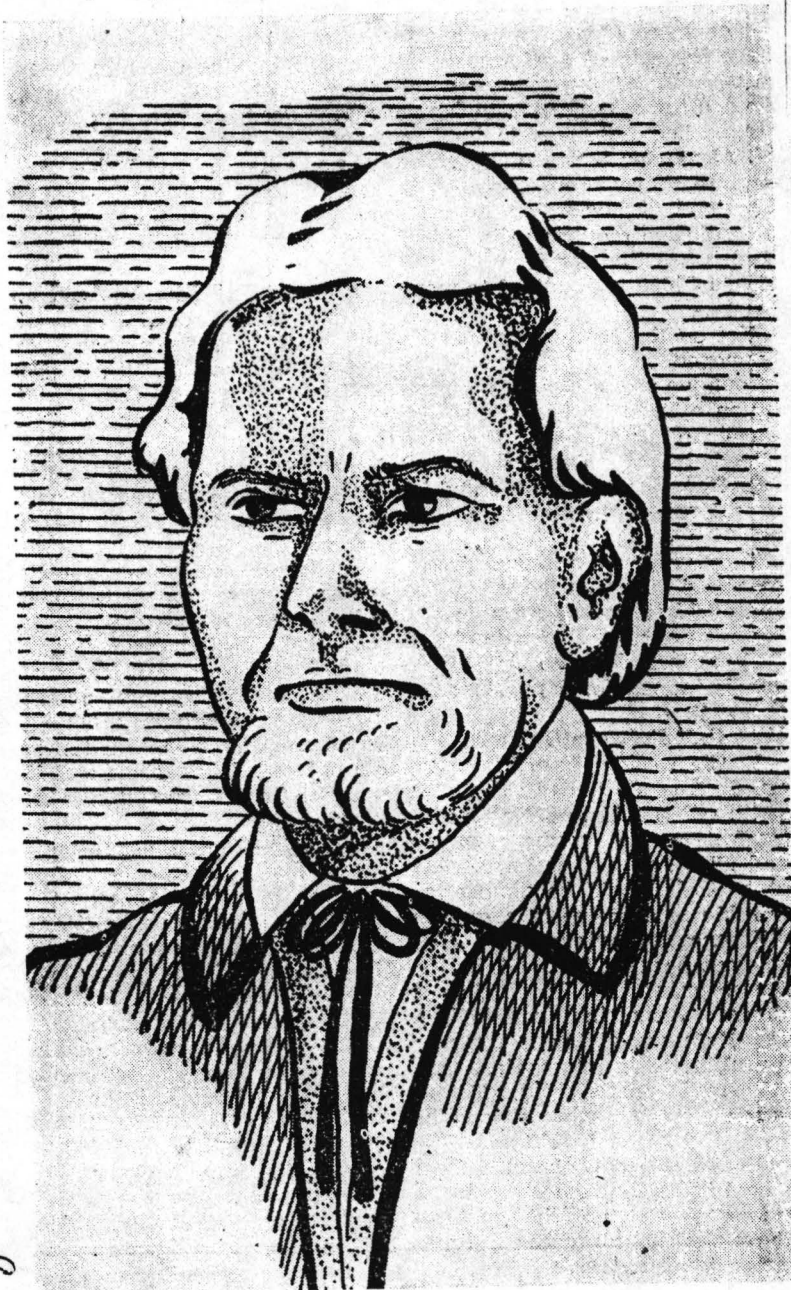
So many stories , has about caused me to lose faith in these records. Like the record making Grandpa 2 years younger than he was, surely his mother knew his age, as she lived many years after her first husband died on that California gold rush trip. In fact, she remarried and had more children. Some of these records say "approximately", or, and "Judging by size", (and give an age). Another person said there were several children lost by death among the first of Great Grand dad; Pierre Belleque's children. This I have never heard either. Grandpa talked of of the California gold rush trip. He went to California with his father on this trip, and told of his father's sickness, also his death on the boat on their return-and on account of a big storm, they had to bury his father at sea, at the Columbia River bar. He also told of the loss of the bag of gold dust, about \$30,000 overboard, that his father had put in his care. This certainly was too bad-for the family could have made good use of it.

Our Tillamook County Historical or Pioneer Society have a book out with several mistakes also, The people writing up these records or books should get more facts from more and different parties, then simmer them down to real facts, then print the facts only. Or, state the name of each party that gave them the story. In some books, I think there are too much filling ins to make it more interesting to readers. In fact, I got this idea from some writers who, some years ago offered me a percentage, if I helped with information and by taking them to the Valley to visit and talk to some of our older relatives. They wanted to write a book-The story on the loss of the bag of gold, overboard at the Columbia River bar, during a storm, by the 15 year old boy Peter Belleque-when he pushed his pants down for toilet reason-over the side of the boat. I refused to help and told them this history wasn't funny to me. It was Oregon history in spite of the fact, that this was true. We didn't see, not hear anymore from them. I have wished many times that I had paid more attention to Grandpa's early history stories, as he told many of them, but I was so young then I didn't realize it was "early days" stuff. Uncle John Belleque, his brother, also told of early days in Oregon. My sister, Louise Jenkins is quite well informed on the Belleque family tree, as she has looked up and called on many different ones, that possibly could have some knowledge of the life of those pioneers. I have written to her and given her, your address, so you may hear from her. I'm enclosing her address, in letter to you.

I wish I could have given you some information on Wm. Cannon.
I must get this letter mailed-as I've been slow in getting it written.

With best wishes
Josie Parker

Champoeg Pioneer Buried Here



THOMAS JEFFERSON HUBBARD
(Drawing by Mike Falk)

10, age

THOMAS JEFFERSON HUBBARD

THOMAS JEFFERSON HUBBARD was born in 1806 in Kinderhook, New York--Martin Van Buren's town--and came to Oregon as gunsmith in Nathaniel Wyeth's Pacific Fishing Company of Boston in 1834. This was Wyeth's second attempt to get a business foothold in Oregon which was like the first doomed to failure. It was, however, the means of adding to the number of settlers who among themselves wrought out a great destiny for the new country. The publicity given the venture attracted attention throughout the East to the needs and opportunities of the Pacific coast.

The salmon packing company did progress as far as building Fort William as a trading post on Wappato (now Sauvie's) island. The company's ship, the May Dacre, was moored to the bank, the men were living in rough huts, and it looked as though a rival of the Hudson's Bay Company was getting under way; but the competition endured only a short time, and the fort was abandoned two years later and the men were released.

Hubbard was implicated in an unsavory affair that is of interest because of its judicial aspect. A few years after his arrival he was living with an Indian girl as his wife who had formerly received the attentions of one Thornburgh. The latter had vowed to get her back, and with this purpose in view, in the dead of the night, he forced an entrance into Hubbard's home. Hubbard, on the alert and armed with loaded pistols, fired at the intruder and shot him through the breast. The wound proved mortal and Hubbard was called to account for the murder. The Reverend David Leslie acted as judge, and a self appointed jury held an inquest bringing in a verdict of "justifiable homicide." In such a manner the colonists tried to maintain standards of conduct without laws and courts.

Hubbard was formally married to the girl, Miss Mary Sommata*, at the house of Mr. Billeck (Belleque) her brother-in-law, of Willamette settlement by Jason Lee on Monday, April 3, 1837.*

Thomas Hubbard's name figures as leader of a band of men who set out in 1840 to bring cattle from California. This is known as the Second Cattle Company, and the number is given as from twenty to twenty seven men. After three weeks, a trapper of the Hudson's Bay Company announced that the expedition had been attacked by Cheste Indians and every one was killed. White, writing in 1848, says: "The emotions of the

* Sommata is St. Martin

* This marriage was the first one performed by Jason Lee in Oregon.

families of the party may be imagined but not described. An awful gloom spread over the colony. They hoped it might be a false report, and waited long for a relief to their anxiety, when one day they heard the firing of guns at some distance from the Mission on the opposite shore of the river. They hastened in the direction of the sound, and to their infinite joy found nearly all the party they had feared were slain. They had been defeated by the savages, driven out of their way, and wandered about in the mountains, some of them suffering severely from their wounds." They had arrived only as far as the Rogue river--that fatal spot bathed in battle and bloodshed--when they were forced to an ignominious return, thankful to escape with their lives.

In reply to all the urgent pleas to the United States Government for aid in behalf of the helpless and defenseless citizens in Oregon, the first response came with the appointment of Dr. Elijah White as sub-Indian agent. He came out in 1842, a record of which he transmitted to the Government of the United States. It is recorded that a committee of seven was appointed to draft resolutions "expressive of the feelings of the community with regard to the intentions of government as communicated by Dr. E. White." T. J. Hubbard was chairman. They withdrew and shortly reported resolutions expressing their happiness that the United States Government "have manifested their intentions of extending their jurisdiction and protection over this country" and that it would give them "the highest pleasure to be brought as soon as it may be practicable under the jurisdiction of the mother country."

At the Second Wolf Meeting, March 6, 1843, Hubbard was elected one of the committee which called the meeting at Champoege and presented resolutions in favor of a political organization. There he was again honored by being elected on the legislative committee responsible for the whole matter of forming a suitable constitution. This was a stupendous work and one that proved a credit to the amateur statesmen. When the committee began its deliberations, Hubbard was allotted work on the judiciary and military sub-committees, and helped draw up laws that were adopted on July 5, 1843, at a mass meeting.

Gustave Hines states that while sailing with his family on the brig Chenamus for the Sandwich Islands, he encountered Thomas Hubbard. Under the date of August 16, 1845, he makes lengthy mention of Hubbard, and then adds: "The manner in which Hubbard, and the rest of our fellow passengers spend their time on the voyage indicates that they have neither become wise nor virtuous from the history of the past. They seem incapable of interesting themselves, save at backgammon or the

card table; nearly all the time not consumed in eating or sleeping is employed at one or the other of the two games."

When the first army of Oregon was hastily formed in 1847 after the Whitman massacre. and the cry went out for help in equipping the soldiers, Hubbard's name appears as the donor of "one rifle and one pistol."

The next year, men were leaving crops unharvested and were rushing madly into California in quest of gold. Hubbard, after sizing up the situation, built a ship at Oregon City. Bancroft says he "loaded it with flour and in it safely sailed to San Francisco where he sold both cargo and vessel. He also built a sawmill in the Willamette valley."

Sydney Smith of the Peoria Party speaks of finding refuge over the week-end in 1839 at the home of Thomas Hubbard. This must have been at French Prairie, where he did blacksmithing for some time with James O'Neil.

T. J. Hubbard moved to Umatilla county in 1864 and lived near Pilot Rock. He died in 1875 at the Umatilla agency where he had been taken during his last illness. His widow never married again. She died at the Walla Walla hospital in 1907, aged 90.

According to Mrs. Munnick in her book-"Catholic Church Records of the Northwest" had this to say about T. J. Hubbard.

Thomas Jefferson Hubbard was a little uncertain about his birth-place but thought it was New York or Connecticut. He joined Nathaniel Wyeth's second expedition across the plains in 1834, a scheme to establish a fur post and compete with Hudson's Bay Company trade. The plan failed, and some of the men including Hubbard, remained in the West to become permanent settlers. He killed a fellow employe in a dispute over a girl on Sauvie Island, where Wyeth had built his post. Hubbard was "white and distraught, pacing the beach the next morning" said one report, but he was exonerated by an impromptu jury, there being no organized law at that time, on the grounds of self defense. He married Miss Mary Sommata (St. Martin) and they are not known to have any children, although Elijah White's census lists "one child". Years later they took 4 year old Felicite Comartin to raise, and "Auntie" Hubbard became a household word in the Birch creek area on the Umatilla Reservation in 1877. His widow Marie outlived him by almost thirty years. She is buried in the Narcisse Cornoyer (Her brother-in-law) lot in the Catholic cemetery in Walla Walla, Washington.

Thomas Jefferson Hubbard, Champoege pioneer who is buried somewhere in Pioneer park in Pendleton--once the main cemetery in Pendleton until Olney cemetery was started some six decades ago.

At that time most of the graves were moved to Olney cemetery, but Hubbard's grave was not moved--and since then its location has been lost. There is no headstone to show where his body is buried.

Hubbard attended the May 2, 1843 meeting at Champoege and voted for the formation of a provisional government for Oregon. He moved from the Willamette valley in 1864 to Umatilla county, and made his home near Pilot Rock. He died in 1877 at the Umatilla Indian Agency where he had been taken during his last illness.

The Olympia Transcript in issue of May 5, 1877, reports Walter Meacham, executive secretary of Old Oregon Trail, Inc., Portland, had the following item: "Thomas Jefferson Hubbard, one of Oregon's oldest pioneers, died on the Umatilla reservation, April 24, aged 78 years."

Meacham at present is endeavoring to learn any thing he can about Hubbard's life--both in western and eastern Oregon, and if any old-timers in this section of the state know something of his activities in Umatilla county, they would do Meacham a service by sending it to this newspaper, so it may be forwarded to him.

A MONUMENT WOULD BE NICE

Many years ago this column carried first information to modern Pendleton of the fact that Hubbard's body rested in Pioneer park, basing it upon information Meacham obtained and passed on to this writer.

At that time we made every effort to find any additional facts about Hubbard's life and exactly where his body rests in the park, but without any luck. Apparently those who remembered about the man were no longer among the living.

At that time we also made a suggestion that it would be fitting to erect a monument of an appropriate nature in the park, noting that it was the last resting place of one of Oregon's noted pioneers--but nothing ever was done about that either. We still think it's an excellent idea, and should be included on some organization's agenda for the future.

This article was copied from a newspaper article taken from the East Oregonian printed in Pendleton, Oregon. It was undated.

H H/Tempo

Tillamook paper 8/13/86

In 1845 a forest fire which engulfed more than four times the acreage consumed in the four Tillamook forest fires (the Tillamook Burn) left behind as evidence countless snags which can still be seen in the coast range south of Hebo. Leonard Whitmore, a retired forestry technician from Hebo, researched the origin of these snags and presents his findings below.

Compiled by Leonard Whitmore, 1986

The north half of Lincoln and south half of Tillamook Counties were engulfed by flames destroying most all the old growth timber of the area.

Forty nine years after this fire, the editor of the *Speridan* sun journeyed to Woods. As he traveled through the coast range he noticed that as far as the eye could see in all directions stood dead and charred old growth snags. Because of the vast expanse of a totally destroyed forest that was once so green and majestic he became curious about its origin and decided to look into its history.

While at Woods he met Peter Belleque, a commercial fisherman, who was knowledgeable of pioneer events and threw light upon the great forest fire of 1845, not hitherto published.

Belleque was born in 1836 near Champoe of a French father and Indian mother. The fire's began near Champoe when he was nine years old. He related that several years before 1845 an English sailing ship entered the Columbia River. On board was a black man, named Mr. Johnson, who was the ship cook. Being dissatisfied with his occupation Johnson deserted ship and traveled down the Willamette Valley to a place near the present community of Champoe. Here he took up a land claim and immediately started clearing his land of brush and logs.

The summer of 1845 was unusually hot and dry. Springtime was short of rain causing all vegetation to mature early and dry by the first of July.

Most of the Willamette Valley was covered with tall grass. The Indians for centuries periodically burned portions of the valley to kill off the brush and encourage the growth of grass. The new grass growth made ideal forage for the numerous deer and elk that inhabited the valley. This was made to order for the Indians who depended upon the larger game for their livelihood.

Johnson thought conditions were just right to burn the debris from his cleared land. He touched it off and succeeded in getting a good burn, but unfortunately a west wind blew a path of flames across the Willamette Valley into the Cascade Range. The wind direction suddenly changed into a hot, dry east wind. This fanned the flames into a frenzy, making an end run around the previously burned path, blazing westward across the valley toward the coast range.

The hot wind fanned it day and night and the whole valley was filled with a billowing pall of smoke. So dense did the smoke become that the settlers were forced to eat their midday meal by candlelight. Many of the settlers felt the end of the world was at hand.

The flames reached the coast range which was then covered by a thick forest. With this added fuel the flames lashed out to the north, west, and south.

Let's see what is in the path of this conflagration:

Old growth virgin timber, 400 to 600 years old, extended from the Willamette Valley to the ocean beaches and indefinitely north and south.

At this early date of 1845 there were no settlers west of the coast range. The only inhabitants were small tribes of Indians, located at bays or where sources of water flowed

into the ocean. Such tribes were located on Siletz Bay, Neskowin Creek, Woods, Sandlake, and Netarts Bay.

Several years before 1894, Belleque interviewed Dick Harna, retired chief of the Nestuccas who lived near the present town of Woods. Harna was living on the Siletz reservation, and, when asked his recollections of the 1845 fire, gave a vivid description as witnessed by himself.

Harna and a portion of his tribe were encamped on the Big Nestucca River, four miles upstream from the present site of the village of Woods.

For several weeks, according to the Indians, there had been a great deal of smoke in the sky. Each day it grew denser and filled the Indians with new alarm. Finally one night the Nestuccas were awakened by a bright red glare in the eastern sky. By sunrise great flames were seen leaping skyward from the summits of the nearest hills. So rapidly did the flames approach that the terrified Indians had no time to gather up their scanty belongings, so they hastily jumped into their dugouts and paddled down the river to the ocean beach.

About 1½ miles below Woods, between the Nestucca Bay and the ocean, was a narrow sandspit. The bare sand afforded a safe refuge for Harna and his people for some weeks until a heavy rain put out the fire. Their only source of subsistence was fish.

Paddling up the river to their old haunts, gruesome sights met the Indians' eyes at every turn. Here and there piled up in groups were bands of elk and deer charred crisp; bear found nearly barbequed; and panthers, with their bodies in the water, showed their ghastly cooked heads.

Another band of Indians retreated ahead of the flames to Sand Lake where they found safe asylum until the welcome rain came.

The historical narrative upon which this report is based was published in the weekly *Oregonian* August 31, 1894.

Footnote:

Old Peter Belleque (pronounced Blake), an emigrant from Canada was originally named Pierre, but preferring an Americanized name changed it to Peter. Two of his grandsons, Ernest and Pete lived in the Cloverdale area all their lives. Pete is the only survivor at this date.

This fire has two areas of historical significance: It's the first forest fire recorded in Oregon. Evidence of the remnants of thousands of snags killed by the great fire of 1845 can still be found extending from Tillamook southward 60 miles to Newport and from the westward boundary of the Willamette Valley for 40 miles to the ocean beaches. This encompasses 1,500,000 acres, the largest known area of old growth destroyed by a single forest fire in the United States.



TILLAMOOK BURN

Down along the Pacific Ocean, chickens went to roost, influenced by the darkness caused by the smoke, and ashes fell on ships 500 miles at sea, and to a depth of two feet along the Oregon beaches for thirty miles distance from the fire.

More than 3,000 men worked to control the fire, all under the directions of the tired State Forester, who hardly slept for ten days. Only one man lost his life, a CCC enrollee from Illinois named Frank Palmer.

The Tillamook burn, which includes the Wolf Creek burn, just to the north, which burned at the same time, and the Salmonberry burn, which destroyed in the late fall the year before, covers 311,000 acres of land.

More the 12½ billion feet of green timber was destroyed. The value of the timber at pre-war prices was estimated at \$20,000,000 and about \$200,000,000 today. Payrolls lost to the state from this timber destruction are set at \$200,000,000 and the forests burned would have supplied raw products to Portland sawmills for the next 20 years. Only recently, announcement by Clark and Wilson that they were forced to cease operations due to timber reduction, has the real effect of this forest fire come home to Portland and Northwest Oregon Citizens.

Smoke reached to a height of 40,000 feet during the peak of the eleven days, and a dense pall hung over the coastal area of western Oregon for miles north and south of the burned area. More than 400 square miles of Oregon's finest timber, some of it four centuries old, went up in this man-caused conflagration, which could have been avoided. It was one of the greatest economic losses Oregon has ever suffered. Now, by the medium of Keep Oregon Green, the public is largely curbing man-caused fires, reducing each year the area burned needlessly and uselessly and carelessly to a very satisfactory size.

Eleven days later, the fire left the State of Oregon \$100,000,000 poorer and hundreds of years of growing time lost forever.

Since that time (1933), all foresters have dreamed and planned for the day when the burn could be reforested. Many obstacles stood in the path. First, the salvagable timber must be logged. Taxes must be paid. Snags must be cut. Roads for logging and fire protection must be constructed. Bare land seeded or planted. The task seemed too gigantic.

During the intervening years, the private timber industry has removed more timber from the burn than originally showed on the county scale sheets. This salvage work went on between the disastrous fires of 1939 and 1945 when the area was again burned and brought the total acreage to approximately 311,000 acres.

In 1939,(the second fire), the dry snags caught fire and before winds subsided and in spite of great efforts by the State Forester and hundreds of loggers,225,000 acres were again re-burned including some 28,000 acres of green timber.

This second blaze was very costly, for it destroyed seed sources which could have reseeded the land, burned young trees which had come up since the 1933 disaster, and left the land completely denuded of trees. About 800,000,000 board of timber was destroyed in this last fire.

On a hot afternoon of July 9,1945,(the third fire), a blaze sizzled up a steep slope on the south fork of the Wilson River, not far from there the original fire started in 1933. For six hot weeks, a Coxey's army of 4,000 high school students, army service troops, sailors, marines, loggers and red hatted fire fighters led by the most skilled fire fighting supervisors in the northwest, battled the red hot glowing snags to a standstill. But 110,000 acres had been again burned over, three men had paid with their lives, \$200,000 spent in funds and 10,000 acres of the finest young trees in Tillamook County had been fatally scorched. Such had been the tragic history of the Big Burn.

- Oregon State Board of Forestry.

THE WEEKLY OREGONIAN AUG. 31, 1894
THE FIRE OF 1845
AND HOW the INHABITANTS OF TILLAMOOK
FLED BEFORE IT

A trip through the Coast Range mountains reveals to the eye of the traveler a vast expanse of dead timber, whole tall charred trunks are the sepulchral statues of a once green and luxuriant forest. The fire that devastated so much valuable timber on both sides of the Willamette River occurred in 1845. The summer of that year was exceptionally dry, and the trees and underbrush burned like tinder.

While at Woods recently, the editor of the Sheridan Sun met Peter Belleque, a fisherman, who was born on French Prairie in 1836, of French parents. He found Mr. Belleque a ready raconteur of pioneer events, who among other things, threw light upon the origin of the great forest Conflagration of 1845, not hitherto published.

In the fall of 1845, says the Sun, "Nigger Johnson," a cook, who deserted from an English man-of-war, at the mouth of the Columbia a few years previous, set fire to a slashing on a ranch upon which he had squatted, near Champoege, it is now Marion county. Johnson succeeded in getting a good burn on his slashing, but unfortunately for the forest the fire spread in all directions. On the east side of the Willamette River it swept a path through the valley as black as midnight. Reaching the mountains it mowed a terrible swath through the Cascades clear to the summit. Crossing the Willamette, it blazed out a path through the valley to the Coast Range, the principal trail being confined to the mountain ranges. A hot, dry wind fanned it day and night, and the whole valley was filled with the pall of smoke. So dense did the smoke become that the settlers were forced to eat their midday meals by candlelight. Travel was largely discontinued. Navigation off the Oregon coast became dangerous, and ships lay at the mouth of the Columbia for weeks waiting for the fearful cloud of smoke to leave. Many of the settlers became very apprehensive that the end of the world was at hand. Streams flowed red with lye and ashes, and many water courses of no small size became stagnant pools, or dried up altogether.

The blackened wastes of scarred forest between Sheridan and Woods give evidence of the awful test of fire to which it was subjected.

Mr. Belleque, some years ago, interviewed old Dick Harna, now on the Siletz reservation, about the fire in Tillamook County. Harna was chief of the Nestuccas, a small tribe of Indians, who lived along the coast at the time Harna, according to Belleque, gave a vivid description of the fire, as witnessed by himself. He and a portion of the tribe were encamped on the Big Nestucca River, four miles from the present site of the town of

Woods. For several weeks according to the Indians, there had been a great deal of smoke. Each day it grew denser and filled the Indians with new alarm. Finally, one night, the Nestuccas were awakened by a bright red glare in the eastern sky which grew more and more brilliant. By sunrise great flames were seen leaping skyward from the summits of the hills and the air was resonant with noise of the surf on the ocean beach. Nearer and nearer came the fierce sea of flame. So rapidly did it approach that the terrified Indians had no time to remove their scanty belongings, but hastily jumping into their dugouts, paddled down the river to the ocean beach with all possible speed. Between Mr. Malaney's ranch and the ocean below Woods, the Nestucca makes an angle and between the river and beach there is, at its greatest width, a bare sand spit of half a mile. Here Harna and his braves took refuge and subsisted upon fish for some weeks until a heavy rain put out the fire.

All that remained of the vast forests of fir and spruce and larch were blackened trunks that reared their scarred forms heavenward, as if in mourning for the loss of verdure and foliage. Paddling up the river to their old haunt, gruesome sights met the eyes of the Indians at every turn. Here and there piled up in groups were bands of elk and deer charred crisp; bear were found nearly barbecued; and panthers, with their bodies in the water, showed their ghastly cooked heads-denuded of every hair, and sightless before death came.

Another band of Indians retreated before the flames to Sand Lake, between Cape Kiwanda and Lookout, where they found a safe asylum until the welcome rain came. Luckily, there were no white settlers in Tillamook at the time. The fallen debris previous to the fire was undoubtedly the accumulation of a century. In many places, young growths of fir are fringed with a dense growth of alder. But it will take another century to replace the grand forests in the line of the great conflagration of 1845.

Harna who is now an old and feeble Indian, told Belleque that the first white man he ever saw came in a "Big stick canoe with wings" and anchored near Cape Kiwanda. While the Indians were gazing at the huge canoe out upon the then calm ocean, a small boat filled with men dressed in buckskin, came ashore, and traded with them. The Indians exchanging such skins and dried salmon as they possessed for beads, hatchets, etc. From Harna's description of the "hyas tyee" and his companions, Belleque believes that the white man was Joseph Flambois, a Hudson Bay man, who traded with the Indians along the coast from Fort Astor to California, somewhere about 1838. Flambois was a good navigator, and visited many of the inlets and bays of the Oregon coast with his staunch little schooner.