



Oregon and Washington pioneers who crossed plains for "Northern Oregon" in first direct immigration party in 1853. Left to right, standing—Leander Huston Baker and George Henty Himes. Sitting—Mrs. Laura Belle Downey Bartlett, John Wesley Baker and Mrs. Gertrude Meller DeLin.

*A. S. ...*

The "gathering of the clans" will take place here Thursday, June 19, when the Oregon Pioneer association will hold its annual reunion in the Masonic temple. The association is made up of persons coming to or born in the original territory of Oregon up to 1859 inclusive.

At 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon the literary program will be held, at the Masonic temple, the call to order to be made by President Joseph Buchtel, 1852, Portland; Invocation by Chaplain, Rev. A. J. Joslyn, 1852, Canby; address of welcome, Mayor A. G. Rushlight; response, Joseph Buchtel; annual address, Joseph D. Lee, 1848, Portland; and the benediction by the chaplain. The exercises will be interspersed with music by a band. At 4:30 o'clock there will be a "kloshe muck-a-muck" in the armory

by the Organized Woman's Auxiliary of the association. Following this the annual business meeting will take place at the Masonic temple at 7:30 o'clock when officers will be elected and other business transacted.

The annual campfire will begin at 8 o'clock in the evening with Colonel Robert A. Miller, 1854, presiding. It will consist of five minute talks by pioneers; old time melodies by the Veteran quartet, G. A. R.; Chinook songs by Mrs. L. B. Bartlett, a pioneer of 1853, and Cyrus H. Walker, 1838, oldest native son of Oregon now living, and old time dance tunes rendered by pioneer fiddlers.

Those shown in the accompanying cut are Oregon and Washington pioneers of 1853 and their history in brief is as follows:

Mrs. Gertrude Meller DeLin, born near Cologne, Germany, October, 27, 1840; came to America in 1849, and settled in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, near the town of Galena; left that county in April, 1853, with the Judson family, to whom she was related, for Oregon.

George Henry Himes, born in Troy, Bradford county, Pennsylvania; removed to La Fayette, Stark county, Illinois, in October, 1846, accompanying his parents, Tyrus and Emiline Himes; left that county, with parents, March 21, 1853, for Monmouth, Polk county, Oregon.

John Wesley Baker, born January 10, 1847, and Leander Huston Baker, born August 18, 1849, both in Hopkins county, Kentucky; left their native state with their father, Caleb Bartholomew and Fannie Baker, their stepmother, in the fall of 1852, and spent the winter in the vicinity of Independence, Missouri. The family left that place on the fifteenth of April, 1853, for Oregon.

Mrs. Laura Belle Downey Bartlett, born in Clark county, Missouri, August 18, 1851, started to Oregon with parents, William Robert and Emily Susan Downey, in the month of April, 1853.

These persons formed a part of the first direct immigration party to "Northern Oregon," as it was known prior to 1854, now known as the Puget Sound Basin, all of whom settled in Thurston and Pierce counties, Washington. This party, composed of 160 persons—men, women and children—from the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, left the main traveled "Oregon Trail" at a point on the Umatilla river near the present city of Pendleton, and headed westward for the Naches Pass through the Cascade mountains, 25 miles north of Mount Rainier (Tacoma). As there was no road westward from the Umatilla, the party was compelled to pick out its own route, clear the sage brush and make its way as best it could. The Columbia river was crossed at Old Fort Walla Walla, Wallula of the present day, on a flat boat constructed of lumber whipsawed by the men of the party, and a route selected up the Yakima river to the Wenas. Then that stream was followed for several miles, and the divide crossed to the Naches river, which was reached about the tenth of September. Then came the hardest part of the trip—that of getting through the mountains, following an Indian trail, with 36 wagons. The difficult task was accomplished, however, without the loss of human life, although there was much exposure, a scant food supply, and a loss of several head of cattle and horses. The last day's travel ended at the Mahan place on Clover creek, October 10, 1853, at which point the company separated a few days later, after recruiting a little, to seek donation land claims.

The picture of group was take April 15 1913 - just sixty years from the day of starting from Missouri to the then, all Oregon Territory.