# Old Emigrant Trail

Marked Out For Society Wishing To Erect Monuments

BY C. H. STEWART

The Society known as the "Daughternely poor, for the reason that all affair with split puncheons, Over the facts of the Revolution" has for many the streams were more or less filled very crude ferry passed practically at the ferry at Syracuse and came up passed on southward through Rock lass of Knox Bute across the prairies the ferry at Syracuse and came up passed on southward through Rock lass of Knox Bute across the prairies the work of erecting monuments to could not get away until very late in now Linn and Lane counties. The target of our country. In late years possible for a loaded team to make lowing years, the one on the Mariy have devoted a great deal of their taw years the Valley country, and county side being known as Santing the many many and finite the southments the old emigrant into the edge of the foothills in order had a store, hotel, blacksmith she event of the Scast, and the crossroad at this point, from Milpolia and the stream of the Scast, and the stream of the Valley to this Coast, and now the societies belonging to this organization in this State have taken up the work of re-locating the old emigrant trails leading south through the Wil-tamette Valley to Southern Oregon bills in these days would have preand California. From a historical standpoint it certainly is very import- hill route, but such is not the case. standpoint it certainly is very impore hill route, but such as no othing of ant that the location of these old The fact is that he saw nothing of ant that the location of these old The fact is that he saw nothing of the second-growth fire and oak which and recorded at the earliest possible now so densely covers the low footdate, for it will not be long until they hills and parts of the Valley, for the will be only a memory, and a faint reason that it was not in existence

A couple of years ago the local Chapter of this city thought of takthe old settler, or any one else who one or more men on horseback. the old settler, or any one cise was one or more men on horseback. The many have knowledge in relation to It is also a fact that the early settlementer. In their dilemma the term this county almost invariably President of the State Geographical located his claim either in the footan effort to furnish the information and the open country known as the

#### First Trails Were Vague

I am now reasonably sure, in fact I am now reasonably sure, in fact the section was compened to nave conI am perfectly satisfied in my own iderable timer with which to conmind, that this report, which is the struct necessary buildings, and he When the settlement of this part of
result of my investigations, will decould only get this along the streams the Valley began, in the year left.

#### Present Timber Was Absent

It would also be very natural to vented the emigrant from taking the one at that, unless some such move- at that time. It has all sprung into ment as this is carried out success- existence within the memory of some fully, and their exact location be per-manently recorded.

existence within the memory of some of our oldest pioneers. When the first emigration arrived, the whole country was covered with a luxuriant growth of grass, which was sometimes ing up this work, and the State Geo-graphical Society was requested to became dry, the Indians burned it furnish them with a description of the route taken by the old trail through of timber which may have sprung up this county, but it seems that they during the previous season. For these are not in possession of any records reasons there was no difficulty whatfrom which they can gain the inform- ever in driving the teams over and ation seeded, and they, in turn, are through the lower foothills on well-compelled to collect their data from drained ground, usually piloted by

Society requested that I should make hills or on the banks of some stream, an effort to furnish the miorimation and the open-country known as the desired. I necepted the invitation, "Albany Prairie", and other land of but at the time had no idea of the a similar character lying to the size of the undertaking. To work the south of it, was the very last to be size of the undertaking. To work the south of it, was the very last to be the south side of at this point, that matter out successfully I was com- taken up. The reasons for this were pelled to consult the public records of almost the same as governed the this county; the State records at Sa- emigrant in his choice of routes of monument, for it is an indisputablem; the records of the State Histor- travel. On account of the lack of fact that this is the starting point of ical Society at Portland, and to per-drainage on the prairie lands it would the old emigrant trail into what is sonally interview a great many of our be impossible to put in crops until now Lina county, old settlers. Even then I think I late in the season, and you must know would have been only partially suc- that it was imperative that a crop censful had I not gained as personal should be produced at the very earli- how far south it is my duty to lead knowledge of our county road system est date. This condition did not ex- the olderth. The request was that many years ago, before so many of let in the foothills—the land there I should locate it through Linn cour oil pioneers had passed away. and the pioneers wasted no time in county of today, or the one under getting in their seed. Besides this, which the old provisional governmen the settler was compelled to have con- when the trail was first traveled, I

THE OLD EMIGRAN TRAIL, over which the first pioneers penetrate with their prairie schooners and oxen into the Villamette Valley, has been re-located by Judge Storart for the State Historical Society and the local capter, Daughters of the American Revolution. In a paper read Tuesday evening before the D. A. R., Mr. Stewart gave his report, the result of longand painstaking labor. He tells of the first faint waton-tracks, and of the trails which grew out of them and brings in bits of history pertaining to the irst-the very first-white settlers who located in the uninhabited, unknown region that is Linn County of today. The Demo-

crat here presents Mr. Stewart's paper and report.

and several other buildings, but the are now both extinct-not a sing building remaining at either side.

## State Larger Than Germany

cuse, and it is at this point that I would suggest the erection of the fir

And now, having the beginning

which is the report, which is the standard of the standard of

ler's hop dryer to the Hawk schoolhouse, is practically the old trail. They Albany, while the locator, Capt. Ab-then followed the creat of these hills, ner Hackleman, had gone back to on the line of the present county road, lows for his family. on the line of the present county road, until they reached Knox Butte. Here they turned off to the east, towards the Santiam, where they located just at the edge of the timber which lined the banks of that stream. Only a few days afterward the Knox family arrived. This family consisted of James Knox and his four sons (James, George, Ellis and Smith) and three sons-in-law, Carey Chambers, Silas Haight and G. H. Baber. These families all located at or near the butte which took the family name. Asa H. Peterson came next, and lo-cated on the eastern side of Knox Butte, but afterward changed his location to the eastern side of Peter-son's Butte, which took its name from him. Then a party of five arrived and followed up the Santiam until they came to the vicinity of Lebanon.

nave aiready noticed that these local taim and issue froman's trions I have mentioned have followed there it took almost a direct course the foothills all the way around from to the crossing of Oak Creek at the Hale's Ferry, by way of Lebanon, Czawford farm, and from there to through the Rock Hill Gap to the Call. Sand Ridge, and on south until it apooia valley, which was the farthest formed a junction with the road com-point to the south reached by the eming through the Rock Hill Gap. When ignation of that year. There were the road reached what is now Brownsapoint valley, which was the lateness point to the south reached by the em-igration of that year. There were only a few other families that came into the county that season, and they settled in what was then considered to be out-of-the-way places. James Crabtree prospected pretty thorough-Crabires prospected pretty thorough. At the north end of the present county the country between nKox Butte 1 y bridge, where a ferry was operated and Lebanon, and, like Courtney and by A. Kirk.

It is party, did not reliab the idea of being crowded, so he found a ford on the Santiam, crossed to the other side and finally found John Packwood, to whom I have referred before as being only store in Lina county at that whom I have referred before as being the first man to erect a cabin in this county. Mr. Crabtree bought Mr. Packwood's cabin and his squatters' rights to the land adjacent, and afterwards took it up as a donation claim.
Anderson Cox settled two miles east of Albany, and Hiram Smead was holding down the Hackleman claim at

#### **Emigration Comes Steadily**

In the fall of 1846 several more families arrived. John McCoy, Dr. W. B. Maley, and Rev. Thos. B. Kendall and their families came out with the emigration of 1845, but rewith the emigration of 1845, but re-mained down in Washington county, whether or not this local chapter has long enough to harvest a crop before coming up into this county. MeCog cloated on the Willamette river just, should so decide it is probable that located on the Willamette river just above the mouth of Muddy Creek-Dr. Maley took up a claim near Oak- in this city, and in that event at least ville, and Rev. Kendall settled on the two questions will arise-the style and Calapooia at the place now known as Kendall's Bridge. The families of location.

Fletcher rCabtree and Capt. Jonathan The first question is simply a mat-Keeney crossed the plains this same ter of money. If you felt so disposed your (1846) and came on up the Valyear (1846) and came on up the Value of the former locating on the upper the former locating on the upper that is really not necessary. I have

pools Valley near where Brownsville front of the Geisendorfer church and is situated.

If you are acquainted with the present county road until it reached goography of the county you will the crossroads near the old Bodine have already noticed that these local farm and Isane Froman's From ville, it passed through the park grounds where the Pioneer Picnics are always held, and crossed the Cal-apooia just west of the small butte at the north end of the present coun-

Fourth.—At the crossing of the Calapooia river at the site of the old Kirk Ferry. Fifth .- At the spot near West Point

where the old trail crossed the present division line between the counties of Linn and Lane.

Sixth .- At Albany, where the emigrant on his way south procured his supplies after the travel had aband-

oned the Lebanon route
Seventh.—At the old John McCoy
farm. Mr. McCoy was one of our
first probate judges, and had more to
do in establishing the early roads of this county than any other one man.

I have not yet been informed as to the first monument would be erected

r plate bearing such an

mind, that this report, which is the struct necessary buildings, and be result of my investigations, will de. could only get this along the streams the Valley began, in the year 18st faithfully and correctly identical old trails traveled by almost all of the emigration coming up the

enterty satisfied in my own

east side of the Willamette Valley from and after the spring of 1846.

that the old emigrant trail in its in- until the spring of 1846. Up to that ception was not a regularly and legal- time there was only one settler on Halley commenced on the Tual- south of the North Santiam, in the ate (Philips (now Washington county) section now known as Linn county, and at Dregon City, and each year, as John Packwood crossed the plains the new settlers arrived from "the with the emigration of 1844, and built States", they passed on up the Valley a cabin on Crabtree Creek, in the on one side or the other of the Wil- Forks of the Santiam, in the spring lamette river. He who went farthest of 1845. One year after that, in the south left wagon tracks for the next spring of 1846, he sold his cabin and settler to follow, and in this way the his squatter's rights to the land ademigrant trail was an evolution. It jacent, to James Crabtree, and then passed from one claim to another, as moved his family over to the Sound the pioneers worked their way up the country, near Olympia. In the spring Valley, and as the population became of 1846 such emigrants as had arrive more dense the kinks were gradually ed in the lower part of the Valley the axen out of it, and it finally made its year before, and had decided to way southward, without much devia- cate in this part of the country, hitchtion either to the east or west, ex- ed up their teams, loaded in their cept to reach a ferry across some un- families and chattels, and started upforcable stream. As the new countries through which it passed were Parrish's Gap. Some of them brought organized, it was in nearly every in- seed with them from the East, and stance regularly laid out and adopted those who had not secured it from as a part of the legal road system of the older settlers along the way. The

#### Footbills Were Followed

In order that you may have a clearer idea of how this old emigrant trail was evolved in Lina county I shall friz name into this paper some of our local bistory, hoping that this will ited this part of the country during not render the subject less interest-

passing through this country now, late in the season, so he decided to that in coming up the Valley the early put in a ferry. The place he selected emigrants would have taken pract ally the route followed afterwards by the Southern Pacific railroad, or possibly the Pacific Highway, as those routes are direct and almost totally devoid of hills; but this is far from being the case. On the contrary, it is a fact that while the old trail followed a general southerly course, it originally twisted and turned to almost every point of the compass, and while passing through this county, kept entirely off the Albany prairie, and followed closely the foothills along the eastern rim of the Vailey. was for several good reasons,

which I shall endeavor to explain. In the first place, the emigration from the east generally arrived so fate in the year, and their teams were in such poor condition, that it was Union Point, and on through the hills impossible for any but a very few of to the present site of the Diamond Them to go on up the Valley until the next spring. In most cases, after the established in winter quarters some-direction through the edge of where in the lower valley, and then some of the men came on up the Val-Tey and looked up a location for their town of Coburg is now located. Inture home. Then, in the spring, as soon as the winter rains began to subside, they would hitch up their teams and start out for the points selected. At that time of the year the prairie part of the upper valley was completely water-soaked by the previous winter rains, and, added to this, the natural drainage was ex

#### John Packwood Was First

siderable timber with which to con- have no instructions

When the settlement of this part of

Oregon was still a Territory, and co

ered all that part of the Northwe

now divided into the states of Or

gon, Washington, Idaho and a pa

of Montana. Linn county of toda

was then a part of old Champoe

county, and all that part of Char

poeg county that was situated north

of the Santiam river is now known

Marion county. On Dec. 28, 184 the county of Linn was organized, an

as Oregon Territory was of such ma

nificent proportions, being conside

ably larger than the German Empir

the members of the legislature wer

not in the least niggardly in definir

the boundaries of the row county. The

north line began in the center of th

Willamette river at the mouth of th

Santiam, thence up the Santiam to th

mouth of the North Fork-up th

North Fork to the Cascade Mountain

and thence due east to the Rock

Mountains. The west line began

the same point, thence up the Willam

ette river to the mouth of the Middle

Fork, thence up that stream to it

ary was the California line, and o

the east it was the Rocky Mountains

Second Family Arrives

These boundaries remained as ind

cated for four years, until Lane cour

ty was organized Dec. 28, 1851. Th

new county cut off all the territor

south of the present line between th

two counties, and in 1854, when Was

co county was organized, we lost a

our territory east of the Cascac

Mountains, You will readily recor

nize the fact that it would be a stur

endous task to locate the old trail be

It was the emigration of 1845 that made the first settlement in this coun-In the first place, you must know ty, although they did not arrive here laid out road. The settlement in the east side of the Willamette river first family to arrive at the Santiam river was Milton Hale, who, with his family, had crossed the plains the year before from Burlington, Iowa, in the train over which Abner Hackleman was captain. Mr. Hale, like the others I have mentioned, had visthe previous winter. He had arrived at the conclusion that it would be im-You would naturally suppose, in possible to ford the Santiam until very was a point town of Jefferson. The only tools he rouse as far south as Jacob Spore had with which to construct his boat ferry across the McKenzie river, where

was a cutting axe, an adz, an auger, the town of Coburg, in Lane county and a large pocketknife, and there was is situated. no lumber to be had nearer than Ore-Two days before Milton Hale com gon City; but with true Western pleted his ferry boat the Earl family fortitude he set to work at his im- arrived at the crossing of the San portant tasky. He first fellow two fir tiam, and when the ferry commence trees, out of which he constructed two operations they were the first fami large canoes, and these he pinned to- to cross to this side, and the trace le gether about ten feet apart with cross by their wagons located the first four pieces, and then covered the whole or five miles of the old emigrant trail

Territorial Road Authorized

From the crossing of the Calapooia the old trail led directly south to Hill schoolhouse. From there the route was continued in a southerly foothills until it reached the McKenzie river at Spores' ferry, where the

By consulting some old records at the State Capitol I found that on Dec. 28, 1847, the Provisional Legislature passed an act "authorizing a Territorial Road from Oregon City to the Calapooyah River, to cross the Molalla river at the Wright Ferry-then by the Daniel Waldo farm to Hale's Ferry, and then by the most direct and practical route to A. Kirk's Ferpersons chosen to locate this road were Jesse Looney, Morgan Kees and came direct to the present site of A. Kirk, and they were to meet and begin their work on June 1, 1848 This is evidently where the road from about one-half mile above the pre-

Hale's Ferry to Brownsville, by wa of the cutoff from Knox Butte Sand Ridge, was formally adopted as a part of the Territorial system. Oxford Is Now Unknown

At the same term of the Proional Legislature (Dec., 1847) anoth er road was ordered that is of espe l interest to the people of Alban "To run from Oxford on the Willag ette river through Salem to Hale Ferry, and from there on to the fa of John McCoy." Some explanation will be needed to show the important of this road to Albany. The location of Oxford I do not know, but it c dently was on the Willamette, proably in the French settlement in t north end of Marion country Fr there the road ran through Salem t Hale's Ferry, and thence along the that I have described. From there bany, and crossing the Calapooia the ferry owned by Jarvis Brig

men a party of five arrived and followed up the Santiam until they came to the vicinity of Lebanon.

Morgan and Elmore Kees. The two former took up the original claim upon which the town of Lebanon was afterward laid out, Gore and Morgan Kees setrled on adjacent claims, and Elmore Kees went on up the river and took the claim upon which the town of Waterloo was situated.

## First Rock Hill Man Arrives

in later years by John Nichols.

This party consisted of Wm. Hawks Thomas Morgan, William Gore, and

Wm. Gallagher came next and located at Rock Hill Gan, back of Pet- ity of the travel south continued to erson's Butte, the claim being owned take this route for several reasons, it little later James Courtney, I. Hut- of Lebanon was cut out. Much of the chins, Josiah Osborne and William emigration, in the course of two or Finley arrived. After looking the country over in the vicinity of Knox the McKenzie valley and other points Butte and up the Santiam they con- south. They did not want to los

the Calapoola and Muddy Creek to el going south, for the reason that it the farm of John McCoy, which was practically ended at McCoys. bead, and from thence due south to on the Willamette a short distance By this time Albany had become the California line. The South bound above the mouth of the latter stream.

# County Jurisdiction Achieved

The town of Albany is not mentionsuch place existed. Abner Hackleman, who had gone back to Iowa for his family the year before this (1846) had died there. His son Abram had claim he was holding down for his father. In the meantime Smead had fornia "squatted" upon the Albany claim for his own use, and late in the fall or early in the winter of 1847-8, about

cember, 1849, and the jurisdiction but not sufficiently to enable me to over the public road system passed give a positive opinion. However, I immediately from the Territorial Leg- am reasonably sure that it was locatislature to the county court. During ed close to the river, passing through the spring and summer of the next the now-deserted village of Burlingyear very little business was trans ton, through Peoria, and on to Harthe reason that hearly all of them, gone conclusion that what is now do south. Those intending to cross some with rolly two-thinds of the maje population of the county, had to prove the county, had gone to the California mines. How, mentioned, and going to from Hargone to the California mines. How, may relate the California mines. How, may relate the county of the they wer, they all returned in the fall of Thomas to Cooking is practically the they wan, and, at a meeting of the denigrant trail court in December, perturbed to the presented to the court when the presented to the county and the court when the court was to be presented to the county ayatem, and intention of the Seciety to exect in favorable action, was fallow in an extension of the Seciety to exect in favorable action was taken in each this county to mark the old enigrant case. The petition in relation to the trail, but if it is possible to meet the road through Albany read as follows, expense I should establish at least and shows that Albany had finally seven, one each at the following gotten on the map: "Petition received points: praying for a county road leading: First.-At the site of the deserted bany, on the best ground. Granted is now known as Linn county. said petition and appointed Jacob Spores, John Layton and Milton Hale as viewers of said road."

Albany Begins to Grow

This road had been ordered opened up by the Legislature just three years before this record entry was made. I have learned from old settlers that it was really opened up in the spring of 1848, and was used from that time locally by the settlers. It could not

Reeney crossed the plains this same year (1846) and came on up the Valley to their destination the same sea-

line to Rock Hill Gap back of Paterson's Butte, over the hill at the Calloway ranch, and, skirting the foothills by way of the Wm Cochran ranch, reached the Calapoois at what is now Brownsville. While a puniorwas not long until the detour by way three years, had for its destination cluded that these localities were get- time it required to go toward Léba-

Character and the po toward Lebs bridge, it crossed the divide between be used, however, by the regular trav-

By this time Albany had become securing the trade of the emigration going south, they caused this petition to be presented. As a result the road ed for the very good reason that no was extended from McCoys to the only crossing of the McKenzie-at end of this city. All the country east Spores' Ferry. While before this date the road was only of local nature, from this time on it received the come out this year (1847) and Hiram tare, from units time.

Smead had turned over to him the south end of the Vulley, and after-city between Second and Third streets, south end of the Vulley, and after-city between Second and Third streets, south end of the Vulley, and after-city between Second and Third streets, south end of the Vulley, and after-city between Second and Third streets. wards to Southern Oregon and Cali-

# Descried Burlington Was on Route

I am absolutely sure that the roads In place he selected tween the north and south boundaries. It is time the Legislature was in seed. I am absolutely sure into the identical in a light on the river about one of the county as they existed in 1847 sides, he said out all his rights to the routes taken by the emigrants in one-half miles below the present so I said long undertake to show a Delam to Wester and Thomas Abon routes taken by the emigrants in stop, he some out all his rights to the relative to the relati ward laid out the town of Albany on is some doubt. I refer to that part This county was organized in Det to Spores Ferry. I have investigated, umber, 1849, and the invisidation.

from Syracuse to John McCoys on village of Syracuse (Hale's Ferry). Muddy, in said county, by way of Al- where the emigrant trail entered what

## Monument Sites Are Suggested

Second .- At Knox Butte, at the point where the emigrant trail forked, and left the foothills, one branch leading off toward the Santiam river and up to Lebanon, and the other taking the contrary direction toward Albany.

Third,-This should be at Lebanon, where all the emigration going farther south for several years after the fall of 1847, replenished their supplies

ter of money If you falt so dismoned you could easily run the cost of such a monument into the thousands, but son, the former locating on the upper that is really not necessary. I have

This was the situation in the fall of they are rather plain and not very of such monuments, and in most case 1846, with the emigrant trail swing-costly. In many cases they consist ing east from Knox Butte to the of a plain block of granite, and after Santiam, and up to Lebanon. From smoothing up one side, they place upthat point it went almost in a straight on it a copper plate bearing such an inscription as may be decided upon. Such a monument should properly be bedded in concrete, and also, for protection, should be surrounded with an iron railing.

## Where to Put Albany Monument?

And now, if you should decide to take up this work, where would you locate the Albany monument? Whe it comes to this point, where you will be compelled to decide definitely upon the location, there may be some difference of opinion, although I believe it to be possible to locate the route of the old trail through out town so correctly that I imagine there will not be much trouble in reaching an agreement.

When I arrived in Albany, in the spring of 1865, Hackleman's addition had been laid out, and the extreme eastern boundary of it was what is now known as Main street in the east of Main was completely covered with brush and timber, and there was only one road through it, and that was the tablishes beyond a doubt the exact place where the road entered on the enst

Albany was designated as the county seat in January, 1851, and in 1852 a court house was creeted. This building faced Fifth street and was situated between Vine and Maple streets, and I have been told by old settlers that one of the reasons for choosing that location was that was practically the old trail leading south from Albany. I think this was not mere guesswork, for I know that in 1865, 13 years afterward, all the travel going south from this place was still passing out on Fifth to the old Driggs place (now the residence of Judge Palmer) and at that point turn-

While it is an established fact that the old trail entered the city on the east between Second and Third streets, it is almost equally as certain that it passed out of town on Fifth street. As this line of travel was far enough back from the river so that it was not obstructed by gullies, the probability is that it ran in a directly straight line from where it entered town to a point on Fifth street very near the site of the old courthouse and if this reasoning is correct, it surely must have passed directly through both Takenah Park and the

new court house block. And now I think that, if you have followed me closely, you will have already decided in your own minds what has been very clear to me for some time, that the proper place for the proposed monument at Albany is on one or the other of these two blocks mentioned-one belonging to the city, and the other to the county.