

Supplina Hamilton References in Pioneer Oregon Disciples of Christ Newspapers (1870 - 1884)

By Glen M. Hamilton

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Supplina Hamilton, "S. Hamilton", born in 1832 in New Lexington, Morgan county, Illinois was a 19 year old Oregon Trail pioneer arriving in the Willamette Valley in Sept 1851, a teamster on the Powell wagon train. Supplina wrote that he came west to 'grow up with the country' and 'see the elephant' (have an adventure), and that he did. He became a respected western renaissance man of sorts on the Oregon and Eastern Washington frontier: Blacksmith, farmer, indian war vet, patented inventor, rural doctor, county commissioner, school administrator and dedicated Disciples of Christ minister. Supplina married Sarah Jane "Jane" Sumpter in Linn County, Oregon in 1858. They raised a large family in Oregon and Washington Territory, finishing their days on their 800 acre wheat farm just south of St John, Washington.

The references to Supplina below are in pioneer newspapers affiliated with the Disciples of Christ movement. The publications covered the northwest frontier and the church work of the denomination. The papers were mainly published from Monmouth, Oregon where members of the church established the first college in the region in 1856. That college is now Western Oregon University.

1870 - 1872

[The Christian messenger., October 08, 1870, Page 4](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

T. CUNNINGHAM & CO.,IMPORTERS, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN BUILDERS AND BLACKSMITHS HARDWARE,... AGENTS FOR THE CELEBRATED ...

Hamilton's Premium Sulky Plows, Hamilton & Finlayson's Broadcast Sowers...
(Advertisement)

Ads also appeared in these editions:

[The Christian messenger., January 28, 1871, Image 3](#)

[The Christian messenger., May 27, 1871, Image 4](#)

[The Christian messenger., June 03, 1871, Image 4](#)

[The Christian messenger., June 24, 1871, Image 4](#)

Supplina Hamilton demonstrated his version of the sulky plow (a riding rather than a walking plow) at the 12th annual Oregon State Fair in October of 1872. [From an article at the time: "S. Hamilton, of Aumsville, is a genius, and has invented a sulky plow that is almost perfect. The plowman from his seat, can raise or lower his plow at pleasure, and at any depth,](#)

and the draft is scarcely any more than a common plow; afterwards, if wanted, a broadcast sower can be attached, gauged to sow as is desired. We are not enthusiastic on the gang or sulky plow question, but this one is the best, in our opinion, that has been shown."

Supplina Hamilton at age 40 was a man of invention and innovation; improving on existing designs and making his own. As a blacksmith also, he was a master fabricator of his day. In 1902 he would be awarded a patent on his no-dismount wagon driver operated swinging farm gate. So, long before the patented "[Hamilton Swinging Gate](#)," there was the "*Hamilton Premium Sulky Plow*."

In November 1872 a son of Supplina and Jane's, Judd Hamilton, my great grandfather was born to the family then living near Aumsville, Oregon. In October 1869, [Supplina Hamilton entered an actual plowing competition at the Linn County Fair in Albany](#). He didn't place in the event.

1877

[Pacific Christian messenger., July 12, 1877, Page 2](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

"Minutes of the Christian Church in Eastern Oregon and Washington Territory, in Annual Cooperation. Waitsburg, June 11, 1877.

... On motion of **S. Hamilton**, the chair appointed a committee of three on credentials, ...
... Bro. S. M. Gerking, messenger from Spring valley congregation, reports 35 members; preaching once a month by **Elder S. Hamilton**; ...
... Bros. H. Sailing, A. Ragan and R. L. Dashiell, messengers from Upper Touchet congregation, report 40 members; regular preaching first Lord's day in each month, by **Elder S. Hamilton**. The church is prosperous and growing in numbers, and a great desire is manifested by the whole community to hear the Word of Life ...
... J.M. Lamb, W.T. Barnes and J. Seaman, of Dixie congregation, Dry Creek, Walla Walla county, W.T., report 24 members; preaching once a month, **Elder S. Hamilton**; ...
... On motion, the chair appointed a committee of three to canvas for subscription to pay an evangelist for the ensuing year. **Bros. S. Hamilton**, W.P. Bruce and J.M. Lamb were appointed.

Report of Bro. D.T. Staley:

Our meeting commenced on the 8th of June, and held over till the 18th. Preaching brethren present Bros. A. Buchanan, G.W. Richardson, **S. Hamilton**, C. Wright, J. Hastings and --- Smith. The immediate result of the meeting was ten additions by baptism but we think that there has been a great deal of good done by the preaching of Bros. Buchanan and Richardson, whose earnest and eloquent appeals for the Bible alone as the book of our counsel, found many an attentive ear, and we trust many a willing heart, and that the seed was sown here that will continue to grow and increase till many a soul will have great cause to rejoice, and the cause of our blessed Master will be built up and sustained in these parts. ...

1878

[Pacific Christian messenger., July 20, 1878, Page 2](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES ...

... Dixie congregation, Walla Walla county, W.T., fourth Lord's day in May 1878. We, the Christian congregation, meeting at Dixie school house, in said county, appoint **S. Hamilton**, J.M. Lamb and W.T. Barnes as messengers to the annual meeting of the Disciples, to be held at Waitsburg, commencing Friday before the second Lord's day in June.

During the past year we have had regular preaching by **Bro. S. Hamilton**, once a month; occasional preaching by Bro. G.W. Richardson. Present number of members 28. ...

"Minutes of the Christian Church in Eastern Oregon, Washington and Northern Idaho.

Tuesday, June 11, 1878 ...

... To the Chairman of the co-operation and Brethren: Your committee on the credentials submit the following: ... Dixie congregation, J.M. Lamb, **S. Hamilton** and W.T. Barnes; ...

[Pacific Christian messenger., July 20, 1878, Page 3](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

TOUCHET CONGREGATION

The Disciples of Christ, composing the Touchet congregation. To the brethren in Christ, in annual meeting assembled at Waitsburg, sendeth greeting. Dear Brethren: We are in working order. **Elder S. Hamilton is our pastor**. Bros. A. Sailing and R.L. Dashiell are our elders; Bros. A. Regan, J. Bailey and --- Fields, deacons. Our number is 45. We meet regularly once a month. Bros. Dashiell, Sailing and Bailey are our faithful messengers who will deliberate with you in regards to the best plans for the promotion of our Redeemer's cause. As such we commend them to your favorable consideration. Done by order of the church this Saturday before the first Lord's day in June, 1878. J. Bailey, Clerk. ...

1879

[Pacific Christian messenger., January 09, 1880, Page 6](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Near Dayton, W.T., Dec. 13, 1879.

Bro. Campbell:

Perhaps a few items from this part of the country may prove interesting to the readers of the Messenger. We will try in as few words as possible to let them know how the cause is prospering here. The Church of Christ on Upper Touchet (two miles above Dayton) was organized by **Elder S. Hamilton**, who has been its faithful minister from that time until last June; since then Elder Charles Wright has been preaching for us. ...

1880

[Pacific Christian messenger., March 05, 1880, Page 6](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Near Dayton, W.T., Feb. 18, 1880.

Bro. Campbell:

Permit me through the Messenger to report that at our regular meeting, 1st Lord's day in February, Bro. C.S. Wright not being able, on account of sickness, to be with us, **Elder S. Hamilton** preached two excellent discourses, and also preached evenings through the week, closing on 2nd Lord's day evening. ...

[Pacific Christian messenger., July 16, 1880, Page 7](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

Meeting at Waitsburg.

The Cooperation of Eastern Oregon, Washington, and Northern Idaho, convened at 9 A.M., June 21, 1880. **Bro. S. Hamilton** as chosen temporary chairman, and a committee on credentials was appointed; who reported messengers from the following congregations: Touchet, 2; Waitsburg 2; Fairview, 3; Spring Valley, 2; Walla Walla, 3; Bundy, 2; Dixie, 3, there being no delegates from north of Snake river, eastern Oregon or Idaho. On motion, the meeting went into permanent organization, with **S. Hamilton** as chairman ...

... There was preaching by brethren, **Hamilton** and Cheetham, over two Lord's days and throughout the week. A prominent citizen of Waitsburg was baptized, and one sister united. ...

1881

[Pacific Christian messenger., March 18, 1881, Page 7](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Near Dayton, W.T., March 2, 1881.

Dear Messenger:

Our congregation at Bundy school house met on Jan. 22, pursuant to a request of a majority of its members, and completed our organization by electing Bro. H.N. Brown, elder, and J.B. Redford, deacon. ... The Bundy congregation is an old organization, but for a number of reasons it had almost or entirely ceased to exist. **Bro. S. Hamilton** preaches for us monthly, ... **Bro. Hamilton** began a protracted meeting for us on the second Lord's day in February, and was assisted by Bro. Cheetham at the last meeting. One young man made the good confession, and it seemed that a number of others were almost persuaded to become Christians.

[Pacific Christian messenger., April 29, 1881, Page 9](#) (Monmouth, Oregon)

CAMP MEETING

The Annual Camp Meeting of the Christian church at Waitsburg will commence on Friday, June 17th, to continue over two Lord's days. Bros. C.J. Wright, **S. Hamilton** and Neal Cheetham have been secured as preachers for the occasion. Brethren of Oregon consider yourselves invited, especially preachers intending to visit the country. By order of the committee, W.P. Bruce, Chairman.

1882

[Christian herald., June 23, 1882, Page 2](#) (Portland, Oregon)

ANNUAL MEETING.

Dayton, W.T., June 9, 1882.

Bro. Stanley:

At our annual cooperation meeting at Waitsburg last June it was voted that each county of this cooperation hold a camp meeting before our great camp meeting at Waitsburg in June 1882. Accordingly the brotherhood of Columbia and Garfield counties selected Marengo on the Tucanon as the place, and the meeting was held from June 2d to the 5th, inclusive: **Bros. Hamilton** and Hastings doing the preaching. ...

[Christian herald., July 21, 1882, Page 7](#) (Portland, Oregon)

GOSPEL SUCCESS.

Washington Territory.

Peola, July 12th - *Dear Bro. Stanley:* Bros. Hasting and **Hamilton** commenced a protracted meeting at this place the first of July and closed the ninth. Result five confessions and baptisms - two of my sons were among the number. Thanks to the Lord and the good brothers. Also four united with us who had been members before and I feel thankful that we had good attendance and good order. Brothers and sisters in Oregon and Washington, we beg your sympathy and prayers, - W.G. Foster.

[Christian herald., July 28, 1882, Page 7](#) (Portland, Oregon)

GOSPEL SUCCESS.

Washington Territory.

Waitsburg, July 15th. - Bro. J.P. Hastings and **myself**, commenced a meeting at the Peola school house on the head of Appowa, Garfield county, on Saturday, July 1st and continued until the 9th, which resulted in 9 additions to the church at that place, five by baptism and four by relation. Praise the Lord and work on glorious in hope. - **S. Hamilton**.

1883

[Christian herald., June 29, 1883, Page 7](#) (Portland, Oregon)

Minutes of the Second Annual Co-operation Meeting of the Christian Churches in Columbia Co., W.T. held near Dayton, June 1st to 4th inclusive.

Upper Touchet., W.T. June 2, 1883.

... While the committee was out **Bro. S. Hamilton** made some pointed remarks on the works of the church. ...

1884

[Christian herald., January 18, 1884, Page 6](#) (Portland, Oregon)

EVANGELIZING.

Reaching the Bundy school house rather later we found the brethren waiting patiently. There were in attendance in business meeting, Brethren J.B. Bedford, I.N. Richardson, **Hamilton**, Marquiers, Anderson, Dwire and others. The brethren disposed of their business in a very satisfactory manner. We were addressed on a gospel subject at night by **Bro. Hamilton**, ... We have a goodly number of excellent brethren in the vicinity of Bundy, but are not in working order. They will be favored during the year by the efficient labors of **Bro. Hamilton**. More anon. - T.M. Morgan.

[Christian herald., February 01, 1884, Page 6](#) (Portland, Oregon)

EVANGELIZING.

Closing our meeting in the Bundy school house on Tuesday evening, in company with Bro. Wm. Dwire, of McMinnville, Or., we visited the brethren of Touchet church on Wednesday to commence a series of meetings. ... I was joined on Saturday by Bro. I.N. Richardson who was with me through the major part of the meeting, also **Bro. Hamilton** was in attendance part of the time. ... Resulting in 31 additions, 17 by confession and 14 by relation. Church difficulties were satisfactory adjusted, and now Touchet can claim a membership of about 80, many of which are good working members.

[Christian herald., February 08, 1884, Page 7](#) (Portland, Oregon)

REPORT.

Dayton, W.T., Jan. 26, 1884.

Bro. Floyd:

... The church at this point is one of the strongest in the territory, and we trust that its light may shine and its influence may itself continue to extend, that it may be a strong center from which to work. **Bros. S. Hamilton** and I.N. Richardson will preach for us until the meeting of the Cooperation in June. ...

A few other sources:

[Chronological Outline of the Life of Supplina Hamilton](#), family history research, Glen M. Hamilton, 2016

[MyHamiltonFamily.com](#), family history website

[Supplina Hamilton: Pioneer Washington Preacher](#), Charles Daily, Churches of Christ & Christian Churches in the Pacific Northwest, 2006.

[A Yakama Woman's Promise To Her Elders Sheds Light On A Forgotten Northwest War](#). Tom Banse, National Public Radio, Nov. 2018

[Video: The Yakama War](#), Native America, KTCS, Seattle, Nov. 2018