

DEDICATION SPEECH OF OLD YAKIMA CEMETERY MAY 26, 1940

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Touchet, Washington

From the first to the last frontier of America came the Goodwin family. They are descendants of the Goodwins who came from Cambridge, England to the Jamestown, Virginia settlement in 1607. They pioneered West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, California and the last frontier of Yakima in what was then the Yakima Territory, also Oregon as Pendleton was first known as Goodwin Station.

We are gathered here today to pay honor to Dr. L. H. Goodwin and his wife who was the first person buried in the Yakima Frontier.

Lewis Heddie Goodwin was born in Putman County, Indiana, August 13, 1818, the son of Abner and Charlotte Ginn Goodwin, who were married in Bardstown, Kentucky, 1812.

Lewis Heddie Goodwin attended the Louisville, Kentucky Medical College and received his degree of Medical Doctor in 1841.

In 1842 he met Priscilla Thompson at a dance and they were married three weeks later. They moved to Neoga (now part of Mattoon), Illinois where they had a farm and Dr. Goodwin practised medicine.

In the spring of 1850, Dr. Goodwin's uncle, John Goodwin, and Dr. Goodwin's brothers, Francis, Bearleigh, and Christopher Columbus, with their families were going to California. Dr. Goodwin and wife and three sons, Flavius, George W. and C.C. (Lum)--decided to join this covered wagon caravan, which arrived in the Mount Whitney district of California in the autumn of 1850--with the exception of Christopher Columbus Goodwin who decided to settle in Chilicloth, Missouri, where descendants live today.

Dr. Goodwin and family had been in California two years when he dreamed his father called him saying, "Lewis, you are needed at home", and the dream made such an impression that the family left immediately for Indiana, where they found his father very ill. He died shortly after their arrival in 1853 and is buried in the old cemetery at Milgrove.

They moved back to Neoga, Illinois and Dr. Goodwin practiced medicine until 1865, when he decided to go west again and formed a train of about 300 wagons. This was known as the "Goodwin Train" and it left Neoga, Ill. April 3, 1865, captained by Dr. Goodwin, bound for Washington Territory, where Dr. Goodwin had a brother George D. Goodwin, who was agent for the Oregon Steam Navigation Co. and ran a store at Wallula.

There were four children in the Goodwin family by this time. Besides Flavius, George W. and C.C.(Lum) there was a daughter Amanda Sedora (Dora). She was nine years old at the time of the trip to Washington Territory.

In this train was Patsy Goodwin Beck, Dr. Goodwin's sister and her husband, Rev. John Beck and their sons Orlando and James, also Winfield Scott, a son of Rebecca Goodwin Scott, who had migrated to Missouri.

Milton Conley Goodwin and his wife and family were also members of this train. Milton became ill and had to abandon the train in Christian County, Illinois, where he died in 1866. His family moved to Goseport, Indiana where descendants now live.

There were Thomas, John and Benton Goodwin, half brothers of Dr. Goodwin in this train, the Joseph Sanders and the Fix families, the Angel family, John Harrington and wife, John Rozelle and family, Walter Lindsay and his two daughters and two sons, Ed and John, the Elisha and Andy McDaniels families, the Augustan Clemans family and many others.

It was a long, hazardous trip. Several deaths occurred with hasty burials. A 14 year old boy was killed by Indians while on guard duty.

The train ran low on supplies and separated into three groups to hunt meat. The part of the train which included Benton and Tom were captured by Indians. Benton was a very intelligent man, but deaf, and when they were captured he made frantic signals, and believing him mentally unbalanced, the Indians rode away leaving them unharmed.

The train traveled several days across barren plains when early one afternoon they came to a stream with green shady banks and decided to camp. The wagons were halted in the customary circle and the children went down by the stream to play. They had played but a short time when they discovered Indian warriors on the opposite bank and ran back to camp to give the alarm. An Indian camp was discovered on a hill some distance away and a young man in the group went to this camp and made arrangements for the train's safety. They had to break camp immediately and travel through the night as they were in Sioux Indian Territory and warriors were returning from battle.

The Goodwin Train arrived in Walla Walla, Washington Territory, Sept. 15, 1865 and camped on the site where the penitentiary now stands. Most of the train settled around Dixie where they lived in dugouts the first winter. John Goodwin went to Dayton where he settled.

Dr. Goodwin and family, Walter Lindsay and family, John Lindsay and wife, Elisha and Andy McDaniels families, Augusta Clemen and family, John Beck and family, Thomas and Benton Goodwin visited George Goodwin at Wallula and decided to go on to Puget Sound.

When they arrived in Yakima County it was October and the snow was deep in the Cascades and after much indecision they decided to settle on the Yakima and made the first permanent settlement in the Yakima Valley.

There were the Thorps and Splawns at Moxee, the J. B. Nelson family on the Lower Naches. Parker and Allen ran stock on what is now known as Parker Bottom and Pell and Gervais ran stock on the Ahtanum.

Dr. Goodwin took donation claim one mile above the present site of Union Gap. Walter Lindsay took a donation claim just above Dr. Goodwin, John Beck took a claim just below, John and Benton took claims one mile above the present site of Moxee Bridge.

The cabin in which the Dr. Goodwin family lived was the first built in the settlement, as a baby was expected. It was not long before the shadow came to cloud the hearthstone. The mother who accompanied the little unbroken household on three wearisome journeys across the plains died of childbirth on December 18.

One dreary day, when the wind swept the damp snow over the plains and fog denied every cheering ray of the sun, a little band of 12 persons followed this pioneer mother to her last home. They buried her on the highland not far from the river bank.

Dr. Goodwin gave one acre of land and this became the old Yakima Cemetery.

Dr. Goodwin and his son George were among the first to raise stock in the Yakima County. Their brand was known far and wide. The cattle were sold at mining towns of Florence and Warren's Diggings, the Florence and Warren of Idaho today.

They built and ran the first store in 1865. Dr. Goodwin freighted in the supplies over Simcoe Pass from the Dalles, Oregon.

In 1867 Dr. Goodwin, Flavius, Lum and Sedora returned to Walla Walla. George stayed in Yakima and continued to run the ranch and raise cattle. The store was abandoned. Later in 1869, George opened another store, close to the one he and his father had previously owned. Other buildings were soon built and another store and the spot soon became the flourishing pioneer town of Yakima City, now known as Union Gap. George Goodwin worked continuously to have this place made the capitol of the state because of its central location, but failed.

Dr. Goodwin was elected Coroner and County Physician of Walla Walla County in 1868 and held that office for 10 years. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Neoga, Illinois, and transferred his membership to Walla Walla Blue Mountain Lodge, Sept. 7, 1868.

Dr. Goodwin never refused to make a call on any sick person regardless of place, time or distance. The Indians called him Dr. Good Wind. He died March 8, 1879 of pneumonia, contracted during an emergency call, and is buried in Walla Walla.

Flavius Goodwin died in Walla Walla in 1877, unmarried. George Goodwin died in Yakima in 1890 but had no children. Lum Goodwin ran a pack train with Alvin Churchill into the mines of Florence and Warren Diggings on the Salmon River in Idaho. In 1869 they both moved back to Yakima Valley. Alvah Churchill worked with the Splawn Pack Train in the Yakima Valley from 1862 to 1864 then went to Walla Walla and returned to Yakima in 1869.

Lum Goodwin has one daughter, Mrs. David Williams and several sons in the Wenatchee Valley: Charles, Chris, Tom, Jess, Lewis (dead), Jack and another daughter Margaret (also dead).

Amanda Sedora Goodwin married Alvin Churchill and has one daughter Mrs. J. R. Steindorf and E. E. Churchill (my father) living in Yakima (other children are dead).

The stone marker of Priscilla Thompson Goodwin's grave is of native stone cut in the Blue Mountains and inscribed by A. B. Roberts of Walla Walla.

We are here today dedicating this old cemetery and honoring those early pioneers. They endured hardships and privations that we who came after them might live in a land of peace and plenty. To us they have passed the responsibility to keep this fine country of their dreams.

*Norothy Goodwin Perkins*