

1 SR Thomas Griffith
Speech at Fort Simcoe
Aug 12 - 1956.

We are gathered to this grave site today, to honor and pay homage to the memory of an outstanding Pioneer, Soldier, Territorial and County Official, Business man, and a worthy and honorable citizen Nathan Olney.

It is a fond hope that the name of this man be engraved in the minds of our citizens of today and those who come after us.

Nathan Olney journeyed west as a member of the Palmer and Bazlow wagon train, arriving in the Willamette Valley during the year 1845.

In 1847 he moved to Eastern Oregon where he settled in "Wascopum", the present site of The Dalles, Oregon, becoming one of the first settlers in the small village.

He engaged in business as a merchant providing supplies and food to tired, exhausted and discouraged emigrants after their long trek over the perilous mountain trails, dusty plains, and dangerous river fords on the journey to The Great Northwest.

Immediately after the news of the Whitman Massacre reached the western settlements, Nathan Olney recruited and commanded a company of scouts, serving with distinction, under Colonel Gilliam during the Cayouse Indian War.

After the Territorial Government was formed in 1849, Wasco County was created. Included within its boundaries was a vast area of land extending from the summit of the Cascade mountain range in the west to the peaks of the Rocky mountains in the East. In this, the largest County in the Territorial Government at that time, Nathan Olney served successfully in its administration as County Judge, Commissioner, Sheriff, and later during 1862, when Oregon had achieved Statehood, he Became Ex-Officio Probate Judge.

In the early records of Wasco County he is referred to as "The Honorable Nathan Olney."

During periods of time between 1854 and 1859, in addition to his many other duties and services, he served as Sub Indian Agent.

He rendered valuable assistance to Father Wilbur, one of the outstanding conscientious Agents, in the formative period of the Yakima Indian Agency.

He, Nathan Olney, was Father Wilbur's friend.

In 1855, while Fort Dalles was garrisoned by troops from the Fourth (4) and Ninth (90) Infantry Regiments together with detachments from Artillery Units and Dragoons, a meeting was held by the citizens of the town to formulate Articles for a local government and for the division of properties. Nathan Olney assisted in these Articles

in the preparation of these Articles which were approved by the Territorial Legislature during the 1855-1856 Session.

While searching through the early Wasco County Records recently, I found recorded the issuance of a Marriage License to Nathan Olney and Annette, his Indian Wife.

It was my duty and privilege to attend this charming elderly Lady during her final illness. She preserved the dignity and charm of her station in life - the wife of Captain Olney and the Mother of his children - until the end of her life.

The Children of Captain and Mrs. Olney, I am informed, have all passed into the Great Beyond. Each of them and their children, has contributed no small part in the development of the Simcoe and Yakima Vallies

Valleys
Today _____ of his Grandchildren are present. Through their efforts, the Bronze Plaque has been provided to be placed upon his monument -- that the memory of this fine Gentleman of the Pioneer Days, who passed from this life in the prime of manhood, ~~the-result~~ be preserved.

(Charles Olney's statement of withdrawing the arrow)

Following the unveiling of the Plaque by

There will be _____

at the conclusion of which

Reverend *R. E. Roach.*

Pastor of The First Methodist Church
of The Dalles will offer Prayer

Detachment

Company B *162* Engineers of the Oregon National
Guard, under Command of

Capt. Miller

will fire the graveside Salute

Taps will be sounded by Professor William Sievers,
prominent in musical circles, in The Dalles, Oregon.