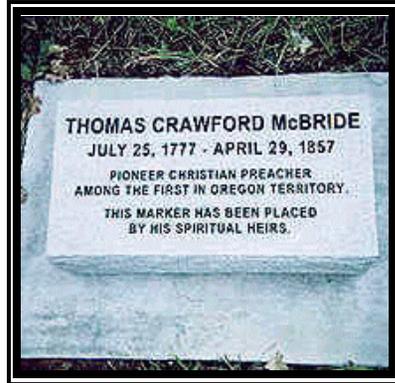


THOMAS C. McBRIDE

splendor, the great Sun of Righteousness threw a rainbow of glory over his tomb, on which his dim eye rested, and lighted up with lustre as it read, "There remaineth a rest for the people of God."

Tammy Lewis located Thomas Crawford McBride's obscure and broken grave stone in the *McBride Cemetery* west of Carlton, Oregon. A tour group, led by Jerry Rushford and this scribe, had the headstone replaced. The new one is impervious to being damaged by mowing equipment, yet modest in cost and appearance.



Thomas McBride was among the first buried in the cemetery that bears his name because it was established in 1857, the year of his death.

Learn More —

A more extended story of Thomas C McBride is on the Internet at: NCBible.org/nwh/ProMcBrideTC.html It includes a large genealogy of the McBride family.

The site also contains a map for reaching Thomas C. McBride's grave.

Thomas C. McBride is discussed in *Christians on the Oregon Trail* by Dr. Jerry Rushford. It is available in many libraries.

🌲 PIONEER PREACHERS 🌲

PAGES FROM OUR PAST — A SERIES

by Charles Dailey

THOMAS C. McBRIDE (1777 - 1857)

Thomas Crawford McBride, 12 years older than Alexander Campbell, was raised in North Carolina and Tennessee. His mother, Mary Crawford McBride, was a sister to President Andrew Jackson's mother. Thomas married Eliza Womack in 1796, the same year that Tennessee became a state.

McBride was a highly respected frontier preacher with ties to Barton W. Stone and reformer John Mulkey of Kentucky. We can locate Thomas McBride as a messenger of the *Roaring River Baptist Church* in Overton County, Tennessee in 1801. He would have been 24 years old.

Thomas McBride followed the lead of John Mulkey (influenced by Stone) in leaving the Baptist Movement in 1810. He taught that those who obey the Lord become just Christians and are not part of any denomination. This was years before Alexander Campbell came to that view.

Eliza McBride may have died and Thomas married Nancy before daughter Margaret was born in 1809. McBride moved his family on to Missouri in 1814 or 1815.

Errett Gates, writing in 1905 says,

The state of Missouri lay in the path of emigration to the west and was among the first to receive visits from Christian

preachers from Kentucky. Thomas McBride came under the teaching of B. W. Stone in Kentucky, moved to Missouri in 1816, and was the first Christian preacher who crossed the Mississippi River to preach the Bible alone as the basis of Christian union. He preached and established churches in Howard, Boone, Franklin and other adjacent counties lying along the Missouri River.

But soon after the wagons of his son Dr. James McBride left for Oregon in 1846, Nancy McBride fell sick and died, leaving Thomas with dimming vision and without a mate. Many of his children and grandchildren had gone and the others were making plans to go. He would soon be alone.

The decision was made. He would find his loved ones in Oregon!

Approaching 70 years, Thomas McBride set off on horseback with Andrew and Ellen Wright, their son James and Elisha Bedwell to reach the James McBride residence in Yamhill County, Oregon. They rode horseback the 2,000 miles in 41 days, bringing only what they could with two pack horses. They slept on the ground at night without shelter. Little James sat on a pillow in front of first one parent and then the other all of the way.

It was September 13, 1847 when the weary travelers arrived at the James McBride residence west of what was to become Carlton.

The grandchildren - the whole family - were astounded that Thomas Crawford McBride had come west. He had been the first person to preach restored Christianity in Missouri and now he would be among the first few men to preach it in Oregon.

The Lord granted Thomas C. McBride ten more years to preach and farm. He married 55-year-old Mrs. Ann

Wright of Virginia in the twilight of life. She may have been the mother of two of his neighbors.

Following his death in 1857, Ann lived with James and Mahala McBride. This is based on the 1860 census.

Jerry Rushford comments on the life of Thomas C. McBride,

On his 77th birthday, July 25, 1854, Thomas Crawford McBride was preaching in a gospel meeting in Hillsboro with his son and Harrison H. Hendrix. There were four additions to the church. The sight of his venerable father in the pulpit led (James) McBride to observe: "My father has been preaching fifty-nine years (this is the sixtieth). He abandoned all human creeds in 1810 . . . and has been pleading the Bible alone doctrine ever since; and though too blind to read, he still preaches." -- *Christians On The Oregon Trail*, Second Edition, page 197.

Three years later his earthly labors were over. The prince of pioneer proclaimers had passed on. Now he could see the Lord that he had extolled for more than 60 years.

Thomas McBride's impact on early Oregon was enormous. His son James was a church planter, doctor, statesman and set the ground for our 49th and 50th states joining the Union. He was in charge of the public school system of Oregon in its earlier years.

Another son came west and preached for several years before his untimely death by drowning. One of his grandsons became an Oregon governor, another became a U. S. Senator, another became the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court.

W. L. Adams, editor of the *Oregon Argus* and a family friend, wrote of his passing:

He departed calmly and tranquilly, as an infant gently falls to sleep; and as the sun of his natural life went down in full orb