

AARON PAYNE

Uncle Aaron Payne died Friday night May 18th, 1883. He was buried Sunday at 2:00 o'clock at North Yamhill Cemetery. It was his request to have no funeral, only prayers at the grave, which was done by Rev. H. C. Morgan. He was 98 years, 4 months and 19 days old. He was highly esteemed by all who knew him, a straight forward upright Christian gentleman. A large procession followed his remains to the grave.

The article mistakenly adds four years to his life.

It is fitting that Aaron Payne, the mighty oak of a man, is buried under a mighty oak in the *Yamhill-Carlton Pioneer Cemetery*. The village of Yamhill can be seen from his grave site.

Interestingly, the family of pioneer Green L. Rowland chose to bury their father next to Aaron Payne. Green was the brother of Levi Lindsay Rowland and a charter member of the *Carlton Christian Church*. He did much of the construction work on the building just as Aaron Payne had done the construction work on the body of believers.

Learn More —

A more extended story of Aaron Payne is on the Internet at: NCBible.org/nwh/ProPayne.html

A much larger photo of Aaron Payne is linked to the web site.

Mr. Payne is discussed in *Christians on the Oregon Trail* by Dr. Jerry Rushford, available in many libraries.

🌲 PIONEER PREACHERS 🌲

PAGES FROM OUR PAST — A SERIES

by Charles Dailey

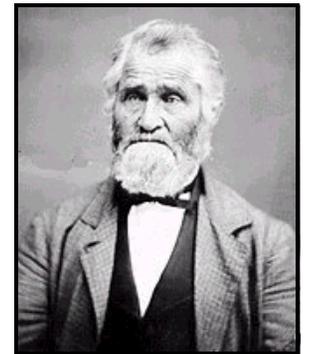
AARON PAYNE

Circuit riding Aaron Payne settled near the McBride clan in the area of Panther Creek, north of McMinnville, Oregon in 1847. Dr. James McBride had arrived the year before. The new pioneer preacher was 58 when he arrived. He was still 12 years younger than Thomas McBride.

Aaron Payne entered this world in Somerset County, PA in 1789. In time, Aaron, his family and his older brothers Christopher and Adam all moved to Ohio. Both Adam and Aaron became gospel preachers. Aaron was one of the first two settlers in Magnolia, Illinois.

Aaron's brother Adam was a Christian Church elder, then gained notoriety as an independent, itinerant preacher. He preached (with the aid of an interpreter) to a number of Indian bands, converting many to Christianity in the Central States.

Two years before his father came west, Aaron's son Caleb Joshua Payne joined a wagon train headed for the new land of Oregon. He signed on as a driver for one of Amos Harvey's wagons. Caleb was



Aaron Payne

This tintype is from Bob and Shirley Kuykendall's family photo collection.

Thanks to Tom Fort.

single at the time, but would soon marry Malinda Toney, daughter of James and Patsy Toney. The 1850 census shows the newly married couple living with Aaron Payne near Yamhill.

In that same wagon train of 1845 was one of the Aaron Payne's daughters, Margaret Payne Scott and her husband James. They settled on a Donation Land Claim (DLC) due east of Carlton and due north of Lafayette. They shared a property line with Calvin W. Ish and his wife, Cynthia Ann Payne Ish.

It was two summers after his children came west -- 1847 -- that Aaron and Mary, with several of their children remaining at home, made the long trek from Putnam County, Illinois to Oregon. Upon arriving, they organized 14 disciples into a congregation called the Black Hawk Church six miles northwest of McMinnville.

The congregation included members of the McBride family. James McBride's sister Margaret and her husband Caleb Woods lived in the community. Likewise, Mahala McBride's sister Lavina and her husband Zebedee Shelton lived down the hill a bit. Another family was that of G. W. and Sidney Ann Burnett. This group was the forerunner of the *First Christian Church* in McMinnville.

Aaron Payne settled on a DLC west and south of present-day Yamhill. Today it is called Old NW Moore's Valley Road. Mary had died the year following their arrival in Yamhill County. Since this was about nine years before the first cemetery was established, we believe she was buried on the family DLC. (Other graves are there.) Aaron did not remarry.

Payne served at least one term in the Oregon Legislature. He farmed for his livelihood and preached

without remuneration. In 1849 he went to California to mine gold, leaving the farm in the care of his children.

The record of preaching in pioneer Oregon does not show that Aaron Payne traveled outside of Yamhill County. It may well be that the musket balls lodged near his spine caused pain that curtailed his travels. He received these while fighting in the Black Hawk War.

He probably preached at school houses and in barns, just as the other circuit-riding preachers did in those days of developing communities. Besides *Black Hawk*, he is known to have helped launch the *Yamhill Christian Church*.

When he was about 80, he retired from farming and preaching and lived at the Charles and Elizabeth Kuykendall home at Yamhill until his death at age 94. Mrs. Kuykendall was a descendent of Thomas C. McBride.

The testy Mr. Payne was an occasional contributor to the *Pacific Christian Messenger* published at Monmouth, Oregon. He had written something in 1877 that David Truman Stanley, the editor, did not agree with. In his response, Stanley was respectful, but did refer to Mr. Payne as *father Payne*.

Aaron Payne was conciliatory, but ended his article by saying,

I have been trying to get you some new subscribers, and hope to do so. So I'll cut it short by saying, call me Aaron Payne or Elder Payne. Call no man your father on earth.

Aaron Payne

A local newspaper printed the following article about Payne's passing. Christian Church preachers of the era were frequently called "Uncle."