

THE SIGNERS OF THE OREGON MEMORIAL, OF 1838

The present year, 1933, is one of unrest and anxiety. But a period of economic crisis is not a new experience in the history of our nation. The year 1837 marked the beginning of a real panic which, with its after-effects lasted well into 1844. This panic of 1837 created a restless population. Small wonder, then, that an appeal for an American Oregon from a handful of American settlers in a little log mission-house, on the banks of the distant Willamette River, should have cast its spell over the depression-stricken residents of the Middle Western and Eastern sections of the United States.

The Memorial itself, the events which led to its inception, and the detailed story of how it was carried across a vast continent by the pioneer Methodist missionary, Jason Lee, have already been published by the present writer.* An article entitled "The Oregon Memorial of 1838" in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for March, 1933, also by the writer, constitutes the first documented study of the Memorial.

Present-day citizens of the "New Oregon" will continue to have an abiding interest in the life stories of the rugged men who signed this historic first settlers' petition in the gray dawn of Old Oregon's history.

The following article represents the first attempt to present formal biographical sketches of the thirty-six signers of this pioneer document.

The signers of the Oregon Memorial of 1838 belonged to three distinct groups who resided in the Upper Willamette Valley and whose American headquarters were the Methodist Mission house. Ten of these memorialists were missionaries or mission employees, seventeen were American citizens who resided near the mission station, and nine were so-called French-Canadians, who were agricultural laborers residing in and near the mission settlement.

The group designated as Missionaries had better formal education than the other two. The missionary group also possessed a much better background of travel and cultural experience, factors which made for leadership in their new community. Of these ten Americans, eight were New Englanders. Dr. White might be designated as a "near New Englander", his home state being New York, a region sometimes described by students of the American

*See *New Spain and the Anglo-American West, Historical Contributions Presented to Herbert Eugene Bolton*, Vol. II, pp. 47-70. Lancaster Press, Lancaster, Pa., 1932; also Cornelius J. Brosnan, *Jason Lee: Prophet of the New Oregon*, The Macmillan Company, 1932.

frontier as "Greater New England." The evidence in the case of J. L. Whitcomb, whose birthplace is unknown, points to the conclusion that he was a New Englander. Edwards, the talented young mission employee, was a native of Kentucky.

The careers of the seventeen Non-Missionary Americans provide interesting information as to the personnel of this pioneer Oregon settlement. A study of their birthplaces discloses that they came from various sections of the United States and were typical pioneer "movers". A tabulation of their birthplaces reveals this result: New York, 3; Massachusetts, 2; New Hampshire, 1; Pennsylvania, 1; Tennessee, 1; Washington, D.C., 1; England, 2; birthplace unknown, 6.

The biographies of the nine so-called French-Canadians show that their birthplaces are not determinable from available known sources. However, all of the available records of this small group point to the fact that they were not all British French-Canadians, as is generally assumed, but that some had come to Oregon from the older sections of the United States.

Following are brief biographical sketches of the "signers". Because of space limitations, only certain distinctly typical and outstanding leaders will receive extended mention. After the name of each the location of his signature on the petition is designated.

The ten missionary signers of the Memorial were:

Jason Lee (1803-1845). Thirteenth signer.

Jason Lee was superintendent of the Methodist Mission in Oregon from 1834 to 1843. He was the first missionary, either Catholic or Protestant, to enter the Oregon Country. Aside from his labors for the Christianization of the Indians of Oregon, he influenced his missionary society to send to Oregon from the eastern states three reinforcements: the Dr. Elijah P. White party (May, 1837); the David Leslie party (September, 1837); and the *Lausanne* party of fifty-one persons (June, 1840). He carried across the continent the Oregon Memorial of 1838 to Senator Linn, who caused it to be printed in the *Congressional Globe* on January 28, 1839. His lectures in eighty-eight towns and cities of the East, including the capital of the nation, stimulated an already widespread interest in the remote Oregon Country. His letter to Representative Caleb Cushing on January 17, 1839, of which ten thousand copies were printed as part of *House Report*

101, was one of the most effective brief publicity documents written for the extension of American jurisdiction over Oregon.¹

Daniel Lee (1806-1895). Twenty-eighth signer.

Daniel Lee was the devoted companion and confidant of his uncle, Jason Lee. In 1827 he was converted to the Methodist faith, and in the spring of 1830 he was enrolled as a student at the Wesleyan Academy at Wilbraham, Massachusetts. In 1831 he became a member of the New Hampshire Conference and in August of that year was ordained a deacon. He received "elder's orders" at the Sunday morning ordination service held in Alexandria, Virginia, March 9, 1834.

In Oregon Daniel Lee's career is a part of the history of the Willamette Valley Mission. During the first autumn and winter of 1834-1835, he assisted at the Willamette station, and in 1838 was stationed at The Dalles, then called Wascopam, a new branch mission. On June 1, 1840, there arrived in Oregon with the great reinforcement on the *Lausanne*, Marie T. Ware of Lowell, Massachusetts, and on June 14, 1840, Miss Ware and Mr. Lee were married. Because of ill health in his family, Daniel Lee was obliged to return to New York, arriving there Saturday, March 23, 1844. During this voyage, Lee and J. H. Frost, a returning fellow-missionary, wrote *Ten Years in Oregon*, an invaluable source work. His wife, Marie Ware Lee, died on July 4, 1892, and at Hennessey, Oklahoma, July 22, 1895, Daniel Lee closed sixty-one years of service as a distinguished private in the ranks of the Methodist Episcopal church.²

David Leslie (1797-1869). Sixteenth signer.

David Leslie was born in Washington, New Hampshire, October 16, 1797. In 1820 he was licensed to preach in the Methodist church, and in 1822 was admitted on trial to the New England conference. He married Mary Kinne in the spring of 1826. Leslie arrived in Oregon on the *Sumatra* with his wife and three daughters in September, 1837. In 1838 he was appointed justice of the peace by the Americans, and in this capacity he conducted the first trial by jury held in Oregon. He was acting superintendent of the Oregon Mission in the absence of Lee in 1838-39. In 1840 he signed a memorial asking for the extension of federal jurisdiction over Oregon, and was chairman of the

¹ Cornelius J. Brosnan, *Jason Lee: Prophet of the New Oregon* (New York, 1932).

² Daniel Lee and J. H. Frost, *Ten Years in Oregon* (New York, 1844).

meeting of the Oregon settlers on February 18, 1841, which contemplated the establishment of a local American government in Oregon. Leslie was a member of the first Board of Trustees for the Oregon Institute founded in February, 1842, and was also on the committee appointed to choose a location for this institution, which selected Wallace Prairie. He was a trustee of Willamette University on its establishment in 1853, and president of the board of trustees for many years. He was Chaplain of the first Territorial Legislative Assembly and a member of the committee which drafted the oath of office for the Provisional Government, July 5, 1843. In 1849-50 Leslie was appointed by the mission conference to preach in Oregon. He died at Salem, Oregon, on March 1, 1869.³

Cyrus Shepard (1799-1840). Fourteenth signer.

Cyrus Shepard was born at Acton, Massachusetts, August 14, 1799, of good American farmer stock. In 1825-26 he taught at Marlborough, Massachusetts, and while here he was converted to the Methodist faith.

During Jason Lee's visit to Boston in November, 1833, he became acquainted with Shepard and was so favorably impressed that he recommended Shepard to the board of missions for the position of missionary teacher. Arrangements were made at once to engage Shepard for work among the Flatheads. After the resignation of Solomon H. Smith as teacher at Fort Vancouver, Dr. McLoughlin appointed Shepard to fill this vacancy. In 1835 the Methodist mission school for Indians under Shepard succeeded the private school of Smith on French Prairie.

On July 16, 1837, Shepard married Miss Susan Downing of Lynn, Massachusetts, to whom he had been engaged before coming to Oregon. He was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society and signed the petition to Young and Carmichael in 1837 asking that they discontinue their distillery. In the autumn of 1839 he became seriously ill and died on January 1, 1840, leaving a wife and two infant daughters. His funeral on January 2, 1840, was attended by "the largest number of American citizens... ever seen in Oregon."⁴

³ H. O. Lang (ed.), *History of the Willamette Valley* (Portland, 1885), pp. 596-597.

⁴ Z. A. Mudge, *The Missionary Teacher: A Memoir of Cyrus Shepard* (New York, 1848).

Philip L. Edwards (1812-1869). Tenth signer.

Philip L. Edwards, the tenth signer, was born in Kentucky, July 14, 1812. In his early boyhood, about 1824, his family moved to Old Franklin, Missouri. He joined Lee's missionary party in 1834, and came to Oregon from a love of adventure and to benefit his health. He wished to leave soon after, but when Daniel Lee was compelled to go to the Hawaiian Islands for his health, Edwards remained, and during the winter of 1835-36 taught a small school near Champoeg. He was treasurer of the Willamette Cattle Company formed in 1837, and went to California with Young to purchase cattle. He was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society and signed the petition to Young and Carmichael in 1837.

It was Philip Edwards who drew up the Memorial of 1838. In 1838 he went East with Lee and five Indian boys to his old home in Missouri, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1839, and in 1842 he was elected to the State Legislature. He practiced law in Missouri successfully until 1850 when he emigrated to California and settled in Nevada County. Here he engaged in politics, first as a Whig and later as a Republican, and in 1855 was sent to the Legislature of California as Representative from Sacramento. He died in Sacramento on May 1, 1869.⁵

Elijah White (1806-1879). Twenty-third signer.

Elijah White reached Oregon in May, 1837, to serve as mission physician, and immediately set to work improving the sanitary conditions there. Disagreements with his Mission Superintendent, Jason Lee, in 1840, led to his return to the East, where he intended to remain. He was summoned to Washington, D. C., however, and commissioned to return to Oregon as a sub-Indian agent in 1842. White was one of the "Committee of Twelve" appointed to consider measures for the civil and military protection of the colony, at a meeting held on March 6, 1843. In 1845 he was sent by the Legislative Assembly of the Provisional Government with a memorial to the United States government, but returned to Oregon in 1850. He again left Oregon some time during the fifties, returning in 1861 as a special Indian agent and carrying permission from President Lincoln for an industrial scheme among the

⁵ *California Historical Society Quarterly*, (San Francisco, April-December, 1924), III, pp. 73-84.

Indians. However, since this proved impractical, he remained but a short time before departing for California, where he died on April 5, 1879.⁶

William Holden Willson (1805-1856). Eleventh signer.

William Holden Willson was born in New Hampshire in 1805. As a ship carpenter, he arrived in Oregon in 1837 on the American bark *Diana* with the second group of Methodist missionaries. In 1840 he began a new mission station near Nisqually on Puget Sound. He married Miss Chloe A. Clark at Nisqually on August 16, 1840, that being the first marriage in what is now the Puget Sound district of the present state of Washington. Willson returned to the Willamette station when Nisqually was given up. He was one of the secretaries at the mass meeting at Champoeg, May 2, 1843, and was chosen in 1843 the first Treasurer of the Provisional Government. In 1845 he was chosen by the Legislature as President of the Bench for Champoeg County. Willson died at Salem on April 17, 1856.⁷

H. K. W. Perkins (1812-1884). Twenty-ninth signer.

H. K. W. Perkins was born at Penobscott, Maine, November 21, 1812, and received his education at Kent's Hill Seminary. He joined the New England Conference and on January 18, 1837, was selected as missionary to Oregon and became a member of the second reinforcement, arriving at the Willamette September 7, 1837. Perkins married Miss Elvira Johnson on November 21, 1837, and with Daniel Lee established a mission at The Dalles.⁸

Joseph L. Whitcomb (?-1843). First signer.

Joseph L. Whitcomb arrived with the second group of Methodist missionaries in May, 1837, and was employed as farm superintendent at Willamette. He married Mrs. Shepard approximately a year after the death of Cyrus Shepard. He was the first to affix his signature to the Memorial of 1838. Because of feeble health Whitcomb left Oregon in September, 1842, and died at Lynn, Massachusetts, June 25, 1843.⁹

6 A. J. Allen (comp.), *Ten Years in Oregon; Travels and Adventures of Dr. E. White and Lady* (Ithaca, 1850).

7 Ezra Meeker, *Pioneer Reminiscences of Puget Sound* (Seattle, 1905), pp. 529-534.

8 H. K. Hines, *Missionary History of the Pacific Northwest* (Portland, 1899), pp. 361-362.

9 Journal of Methodist Foreign Mission Board (150 Fifth Ave., New York City).

Alanson Beers (1800-1851). Fifteenth signer.

Alanson Beers was born in Connecticut in 1800. As blacksmith for the Oregon Mission, he came in the second group of Methodist missionaries, arriving at the mission on June 1, 1837. He was one of the organizers of the Oregon Institute and a member of its first Board of Trustees chosen February 1, 1842. Beers served on the "Legislative Committee of Nine" chosen May 2, 1843, to draft a code of laws, and was one of the three then elected to the first Executive Committee of the Provisional Government. Scott gives the date of Beer's death as 1851.¹⁰

The seventeen America non-missionary memorialists were:

Ewing Young (?-1841). Ninth signer.

The most prominent of the American non-missionary memorialists was Ewing Young. He was a native of Knox County, Tennessee, and a cabinet maker by trade. A man of fine intelligence and nerve, Young was too restless and fond of adventure to remain long in one place. As early as 1828-29 he had visited California with a trapping party hunting on Tulare Lake and the San Joaquin River. He returned to New Mexico where he married a Taos woman. However, he was soon back in California with another party of trappers which broke up at Los Angeles in 1831. He met Hall J. Kelley at San Diego and left with him for Oregon in 1834. Governor Figueroa of California unjustly denounced Young and Kelley as horse thieves so that McLoughlin would have nothing to do with them. Young located in the Chehalem Valley opposite Champoeg in 1834, but because of Figueroa's letter was regarded as an outcast. Since there was no other business open to him, he turned to distilling liquor, which he continued for about a year. In 1837 a petition was addressed to Young asking that he and Lawrence Carmichael, his partner, give up their distillery, and both the missionaries and McLoughlin, the English chief factor, appealed to him. The attitude toward Young finally became more lenient and he abandoned his ill-favored project. Slacum and the missionaries then aroused his interest in bringing cattle into the country. The Willamette Cattle Company was formed in 1837 and Young was chosen to lead the party which went to California for cattle that same year. He now rose to an important position in the colony. He erected a saw mill on

¹⁰ Harvey W. Scott, *History of the Oregon Country*, compiled by Leslie M. Scott, 6 vols. (Cambridge, Mass., 1924), II, p. 231.

the Chehalem Creek near its confluence with the Willamette River, which was operated until it was carried away by high water in 1841. He died about January 15, 1841. Young was a thrifty and prosperous member of the American settlement. From the time of his arrival until his death his name had a conspicuous place in the pioneer life of Oregon. On his death he left considerable property to which there were no legal claimants or known heirs, and the money from his estate was used to erect a jail at Oregon City.¹¹

James A. O'Neil (1800-1874). Second signer.

James A. O'Neil was born in New York in 1800. He arrived in Oregon in 1834 with Wyth and settled west of the Willamette River. He was chairman of the "Wolf Meeting" in 1843 and one of the "Committee of Twelve" appointed to consider taking measures for the civil and military protection of the colony. O'Neil was also a member of the "Legislative Committee of Nine" that drafted a code of laws for the new government. In 1843 he was chosen Justice of the Peace for Yamhill District, and in 1845 was elected by the Legislature as one of the three Judges for Yamhill County. He died in Polk County, near Lewisville, in September, 1874, at the age of seventy-four.¹²

Felix Hathaway (1799-1856). Seventh signer.

Felix Hathaway came to Oregon in 1829. An excellent ship carpenter, he was chief builder of the *Star of Oregon*, the first vessel built in Oregon by Americans. On June 18, 1844, the first regularly elected Legislature of Oregon met at Hathaway's residence in Oregon City. He died at Vancouver, Washington, on March 6, 1856, at the age of fifty-eight.¹³

Wesley John Hauxhurst (1809-?). Twelfth signer.

Wesley John Hauxhurst was born on Long Island in 1809, and came to Oregon from California in 1834 with Young and Kelley. He was the first white man to be converted in Oregon and to be received into the church on the Pacific Coast, the date of the event being July, 1834. On February 25, 1837, he was married to "Miss Mary" of the Yamhill tribe at the Methodist mission

¹¹ *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association* (Salem and Portland, Ore., 1874 to date) for 1880, p. 56.

¹² Bancroft, *Oregon*, I, p. 76.

¹³ Horace S. Lyman, *History of Oregon*, 4 vols. (New York, 1903), III, pp. 210-215.

house, Jason Lee officiating. Hauxhurst was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society as well as a member of the Willamette Cattle Company and was one of the twenty-five members of the "Oregon Rangers" organized March 23, 1843. He was a Trustee of Willamette University when it was established in 1853.¹⁴

Solomon Howard Smith (1809-1891). Eighth signer.

Born in Lebanon, New Hampshire, December 26, 1809, Solomon Howard Smith came to Oregon with the N. J. Wyeth party in 1832. He taught school at Fort Vancouver and also opened a private school at Chemayway near the home of Gervais. On February 11, 1837, Smith was married to "Miss Ellen" of the Clatsop tribe "at the house of Mr. Smith", Willamette settlement, Jason Lee performing the ceremony. As a member of the Oregon Temperance Society, Smith signed the petition to Young and Carmichael in 1837 asking that they give up their distillery. He was converted at a revival meeting conducted by Leslie in December, 1838. He helped build the Clatsop mission in February, 1841, and during the following summer explored a route to the Willamette by way of the coast and the Tillamook country. Smith was one of the organizers of the Provisional Government in 1843. He was County Commissioner for Clatsop County for two terms and was a member of the Oregon State Senate at the time of his death, which occurred at Skipanon, June 18, 1891.¹⁵

William Canning (?-?). Fourth signer.

Slacum describes Canning as a miller and millwright living near the Methodist mission settlement in 1837, and states that he owned "£300 sterling in the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company." Canning is listed as a petitioner requesting Ewing Young and Lawrence Carmichael to discontinue their distillery in January, 1837; but is described as not being a member of the Oregon Temperance Society.¹⁶

Calvin Tibbetts (?-?). Twenty-fourth signer.

Calvin Tibbetts was born in Massachusetts and came to Oregon from Maine, arriving with Wyeth in 1832. He was a stone-cutter and settled first near Chemayway and afterward on

¹⁴ Lee and Frost, *Ten Years in Oregon*, pp. 143, 144 and *passim*.

¹⁵ *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association* . . . for 1887, p. 88.

¹⁶ *Memorial of William A. Slacum* (Sen. Doc. No. 24, 25th Cong., 2 Sess., pp. 1-31), p. 22 and *passim*.

Clatsop Plains. His wife was a native of the Clatsop tribe. He was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society, and as such signed the petition requesting Ewing Young and Lawrence Carmichael to give up their distillery. Tibbetts was also a member of the Willamette Cattle Company. In 1843 he voted for the Provisional Government of Oregon and in 1845 was chosen by the Legislature as one of the three Judges for Clatsop County.¹⁷

Thomas Jefferson Hubbard (1806-1877). Twentieth signer.

Thomas Jefferson Hubbard was born in Massachusetts in 1806. He arrived in Oregon in 1834 and was active in the affairs of the early American settlement. On April 3, 1837, Hubbard was married by Jason Lee to Miss Mary Sommata, an Indian woman. He signed the petition to Young and Carmichael in 1837 asking that they give up their distillery, and soon after joined the Oregon Temperance Society. He was one of the "Committee of Twelve" to consider taking measures for the civil and military protection of the colony at the "Wolf Meeting" in March, 1843. He was also a member of the "Legislative Committee of Nine" to draft a code of laws chosen, May 2, 1843. In 1857 Hubbard removed to eastern Oregon and died in Umatilla County, April 24, 1877, at the age of seventy-one years.¹⁸

William Johnson (1784-1850). Twenty-fifth signer.

The twenty-fifth signer, William Johnson, was born in England in 1784, but becoming a citizen of the United States, he entered the Navy and was one of the crew of the *Constitution* when she engaged in her famous battle with the English frigate, *Guerriere*, on August 19, 1812. Johnson arrived in Oregon in 1835. On February 18, 1841, he was made a member of the "Committee of Nine" to form a constitution and draft a code of laws and at the same meeting he was elected High Sheriff. The first house of Portland, a log cabin, was built in 1842 by Johnson. He attended the meeting of the settlers at Champoeg on May 2, 1843, and was one of those who voted for the Provisional Government of Oregon. He died in 1850.¹⁹

17 Lyman, III, pp. 254, 302.

18 Bancroft, *Oregon*, I, p. 76.

19 Scott, II, pp. 8, 225, 228, 266.

John Turner (?-1847). Thirty-sixth signer.

John Turner was characterized by Colonel Nesmith, distinguished Oregon pioneer of 1843, as "The Old Kentuckian, so well known and famed was he for his Herculean strength, good nature, quaint oddities, and dauntless courage." He became a resident of Willamette Valley, although he lived in seclusion at some distance from the other settlers. Turner was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society and as such signed the petition presented to Young and Carmichael in 1837. He was also a member of the Willamette Cattle Company and went with Young and Edwards on their expedition to California for cattle. He died in California in 1847.²⁰

James M. Bates (1809-?). Third signer.

Born in Washington, D. C., in 1809, James M. Bates joined the Methodist missionaries as a blacksmith in 1837. Superintendent Jason Lee placed him in charge of the Indian Manual Labor School at Salem in 1843. Bates located at Jefferson, Marion County, in 1847 and in that same year married Mrs. Margaret Caldwell. The date of his death is uncertain, but he was still living in Oregon in 1872.²¹

Henry Wood (?-?). Twenty-sixth signer.

Henry Wood came from California with the members of the Willamette Cattle Company in 1837, having joined Young and Edwards at the San Joaquin River in California. He was a member of the company which built the *Star of Oregon*. In August, 1841 a company was organized by Lieutenant Emmons of the Wilkes' expedition for an overland exploring tour to California. Wood went along and from thence disappeared from west coast history.²²

Charles J. Roe (1806-1859). Seventeenth signer.

Charles J. Roe was born in New York in 1806. He came to Oregon in 1834, probably with the Wyeth and missionary party of that year, since he was mentioned by the Methodists. He was married to Nancy McKay, a half breed, July 16, 1837, at Old Mission on the same day that Jason Lee and Cyrus Shepard were

²⁰ Lyman, III, pp. 217-220.

²¹ Lang (ed.), *Willamette Valley*, pp. 594-595.

²² Bancroft, *Oregon*, I, pp. 145, 247-249.

married. Jason Lee performed the marriage ceremony. Slacum mentions him as a settler and gives his trade as that of a carpenter. Roe was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society and signed the petition to Young and Carmichael asking them to discontinue their distillery. He was converted by the Reverend David Leslie at a revival meeting in December, 1838. On the death of his wife he was married again in 1856 to another half-breed girl of good character. He became jealous of his wife and murdered her in 1859 for which act he was hanged.²³

Samuel G. Campbell (?-?). Twenty-first signer.

Samuel G. Campbell was converted by the Reverend David Leslie at a revival meeting in December, 1838. This is the only known mention of him. Scott records a Samuel L. Campbell who was one of the first trustees of the University of Oregon City, incorporated January 11, 1856. Whether or not they are the same person is not known.²⁴

John Edmunds [Pickernell] (?-?). Twenty-second signer.

Although born in England, John Edmunds [Pickernell] was mentioned by the Methodists so he probably came with the N. J. Wyeth party of 1834. Edmunds made his home on the lower Columbia and attended the meeting at Champoeg to organize a Provisional Government for which he voted.²⁵

John Rowling (?-?). Eighteenth signer.

The only information concerning John Rowling is his mention by Slacum as one of the settlers.²⁶

Elisha Ezekiel (?-?). Twenty-seventh signer.

Elisha Ezekiel came from California with the Young and Kelley party in 1834, and was employed at the mission. He made the first cartwheel in the Willamette Valley. Ezekiel was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society.²⁷

The nine French-Canadian signers were:²⁸

23 Bancroft, *Oregon*, I, pp. 159-160, 179.

24 Lee and Frost, *Ten Years in Oregon*, pp. 167-168.

25 Lyman, III, p. 298. Pickernell is regarded as his real name.

26 Slacum, *Memorial*, p. 22.

27 Bancroft, *Oregon*, I, p. 76.

28 Because of the paucity and inaccessibility of authentic source material on the French-Canadian signers, a relatively larger number of intimate biographical details are included in these sketches.

Joseph Gervais (1777-1861). Sixth signer.

Joseph Gervais arrived with Hunt's party in 1812, probably enlisting at St. Louis. After Astor's company was transferred to the North West Company of Montreal in October, 1813, Gervais became a free trapper. Slacum records that he had also been in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company. At the time of Slacum's visit to Oregon he had three houses and a gristmill. He was one of the original land claimants of Champoeg vicinity, having built a home at French Prairie as early as 1828. Gervais married Yaimast, the youngest daughter of the Clatsop Chief, Kobaiwai, and selected a point on the Willamette River about twelve miles above Champoeg and as many below Salem for his home. His house, the first settler's house in this section, was built in a style partly Indian and partly white. He was always an active helper and friend of the Methodist Mission and it was customary to hold meetings of a religious or secular nature at his home, this being a convenient center. Lee's services were first held at this house, and the "Wolf Meeting" of March 6, 1843, was likewise held there. Gervais was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society and signed the petition presented to Young and Carmichael. On August 14, 1837, he accompanied the families of Superintendent Lee and Cyrus Shepard on an excursion to the Pacific Ocean. In 1841 he was one of the four Justices of the Peace elected; and two years later he was one of the "Committee of Twelve" chosen to consider measures for the civil and military protection of the colony. In 1845 he was a member of an exploring party trying to find a pass in the Cascades for building roads. He died at French Prairie on July 13, 1861, at the age of eighty-four.²⁹

Etienne Lucier (1793-1853). Thirty-fifth signer.

This name frequently appears as Ettiienne Lucia and Etteine Lucia. He was born in 1793 of Canadian ancestry, and was enlisted by Hunt at St. Louis, arriving in Oregon in 1812. While in the employ of McLoughlin he built the first three cabins at Oregon City. Lucier first settled where East Portland now stands, later moving to French Prairie. He was a guide for the Reverend Samuel Parker in exploring the Willamette Valley in November, 1835. According to Slacum, in 1837 he had four houses and a

²⁹ Scott, II, pp. 10, 229.

gristmill. Etienne Lucier was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society and a signer of the petition presented to Young and Carmichael in 1837, asking they discontinue their distillery. He took an important part in the formation of the Provisional Government, and was one of the "Committee of Nine" appointed to form a constitution and draft a code of laws for the colony on February 18, 1841. He was also on the "Committee of Twelve" appointed at the "Wolf Meeting" in 1843 to consider taking measures for the civil and military protection of the colony. Lucier died March 6, 1853, at Champoeg at the age of sixty.³⁰

Joseph De Lor (1789-1869). Thirtieth signer.

This name has a number of variations. Lyman spells it "Joseph De Loar" He was a Canadian who lived near Champoeg, and was a member of the Lewis and Clark party that came to Oregon in 1805. He subsequently returned to Oregon in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company and for many years enjoyed the appellation of "oldest inhabitant". Scott mentions a French-Canadian by the name of Joseph Delores as one of the original land claimants in the vicinity of Champoeg whose holdings consisted of 488.45 acres. Slacum noted a settler, Joseph Delor, who had been in the Hudson's Bay Company's service and who had two houses when he was there. De Lor was a member of the Oregon Temperance Society, and signed the petition requesting Young and Carmichael to give up their distillery. The name is there spelled "Joseph De Lor". Scott mentions a "Joseph Delard" at French Prairie who died August, 1869, at the age of eighty.³¹

Xavier Laderout (1810-1864). Nineteenth signer.

This name also has a variety of forms but, according to Scott, appears this way in the parish records. Laderout was a Canadian living on French Prairie, and was one of the original land claimants in the vicinity of Champoeg. Slacum mentioned that he had been in the employ of Hudson's Bay Company and also said that he had two houses. He was one of three Constables elected at a meeting of the settlers on February 18, 1841. Laderout supported the Provisional Government. He died on December 18, 1864, at the age of fifty-four and was buried at Saint Paul, Oregon.³²

³⁰ Scott, I, p. 283; II, pp. 8, 10, 222, 225, 228, 229.

³¹ Lyman, III, p. 251.

³² Scott, II, pp. 9, 222, 229.

Pierre Billique (?-?). Thirty-first signer.

This name also is spelled in various ways. According to Scott it appears as "Pierre Belleque" in the deed records and parish records of Saint Paul, Oregon. Billique, a Canadian living on French Prairie, was one of the first settlers. He was one of the original land claimants in the vicinity of Champoeg, his land holdings consisting of 399.99 acres. Mr. T. J. Hubbard was married at his house in the Willamette settlement on April 3, 1837. He signed the petition to Young and Carmichael in 1837 asking that they discontinue their distillery, but was not a member of the Oregon Temperance Society. Slacum reported that he had been in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company and noted that he had two houses. Billique was one of three Constables elected at a meeting of the settlers on February 18, 1841, and voted against the organization of the Provisional Government on May 2, 1843.³³

Jean B. Perrault (?-?). Thirty-fourth signer.

According to Slacum, Jean B. Perrault was a French-Canadian in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company. He mentions him as a settler having three houses, spelling his name "Jean B. Perault". Perrault signed the petition to Young and Carmichael asking them to discontinue their distillery, although he was not a member of the Oregon Temperance Society. The signature on the petition reads, "John Baptiste Perroult."³⁴

Andre Picord (?-?). Thirty-second signer.

Slacum gives his name as "Andres Pecor". As a member of the Oregon Temperance Society, he signed the petition of 1837 which was addressed to Young and Carmichael requesting they discontinue their distillery.³⁵

John B. Desportes (?-?). Fifth signer.

Desportes was living at Willamette Falls in 1833, and is described as a "half breed, with two wives. . . . yes, two wives, seven children, and cats and dogs numberless." The only other known references to this French-Canadian settler are the following: "Wednesday, August 2, 1837, he accompanied the families of Superintendent Lee and Cyrus Shepard on a short summer journey down

³³ Scott, II, pp. 9, 222, 229.

³⁴ Slacum, *Memorial*, pp. 22, 24.

³⁵ Slacum, *Memorial*, p. 24.

the Willamette Valley 'on an excursion for health.'" His land holdings are not described by Scott as among the original land claimants in the vicinity of Champoeg. Desportes had a daughter, Liset, who was married to Mr. John Hoard, May 1, 1837.³⁶

Joseph Deloze (?-?). Thirty-third signer.

There is no known reference to this signer of the Oregon Memorial of 1838. His name appears on the Memorial as "De-lozhe."³⁷

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³⁶ John Ball, *Autobiography, 1794-1884* (Glendale, Calif., 1925), p. 95.

³⁷ The author of this paper is indebted to Dr. George P. Hammond, University of Southern California, for permission to reproduce a considerable portion of the subject matter in the present article. This appeared in the writer's contribution to *New Spain and the Anglo-American West, Historical Contributions Presented to Herbert Eugene Bolton*, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1932.