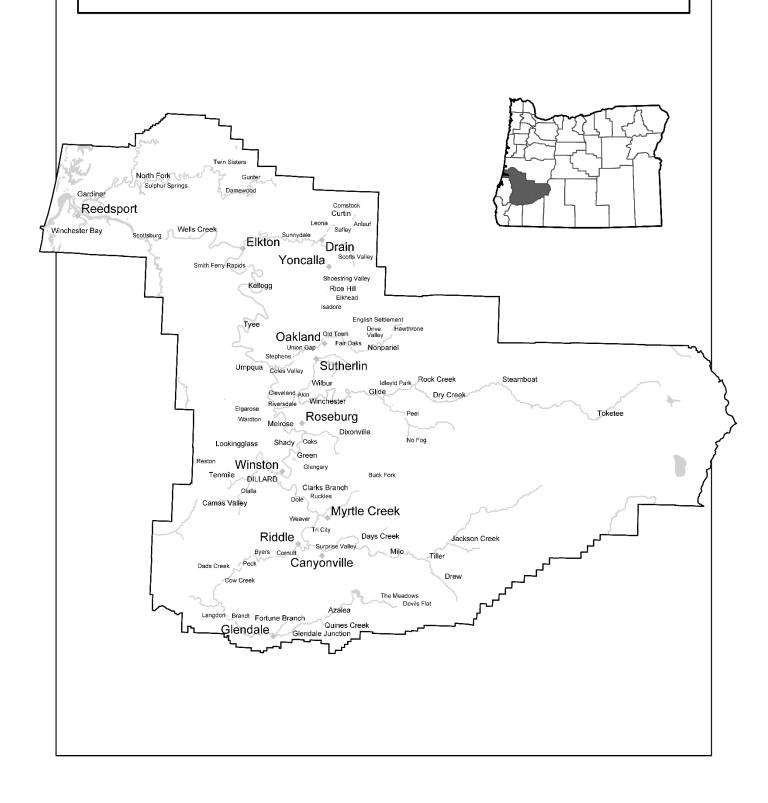
Douglas County Pioneer

September 2015, Volume 29, Issue 3



Genealogical Society of Douglas County, Inc.

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\$15.00 for 6 issues of the GSDC Newsletter: features local announcements, workshops, research resources and lists new additions to the library. **\$20.00 for a Family Membership.**-OR-

\$15.00 for 4 issues of this quarterly magazine (*Douglas County Pioneer*): Douglas County focus on our residents, features vital statistics, biographies, ancestor charts and lists new additions to our library. A list of our Douglas County publications offered for sale is included in the first issue of each year. **\$20.00** for a Family Membership.

-OR-

\$20.00 for both the Newsletter and the Douglas County Pioneer. \$25.00 for Family Membership.

LIBRARY HOURS: 1:00 – 4:00 pm Tuesday through Friday.

11:00 am to 7:00 pm the first Tuesday of each month. – Our Genealogy Library is closed on all national holidays and near holidays. Please write or call us if you wish to visit during the Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's week so we can make special arrangements for you (if staffing allows).

Douglas County Pioneer: Published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Unpublished genealogical material is accepted as it pertains to Douglas County, Oregon, queries, photos and Ancestor Charts are gladly accepted.

Research Fees: \$5.00 for simple requests, such as copies of obituaries or a few look-ups in our publications. Complex research requiring retrieval of actual documents and/or constructing family information is \$10.00 per hour. There may be additional copying costs; your email address would insure communication about them. <u>Send your written requests</u> to the address on the preceding page with "Research" noted over the address on the envelope. Please include a family group sheet with your request so we do not duplicate what information you already have. While we do answer email questions and requests telephone requests are very difficult to handle and are strongly discouraged.

Donations: Monetary gifts are always welcome and are tax-deductible. GSDC is a 501(c)a organization.

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We have access to the Archives section of the Douglas County Clerk.

Donations: Monetary gifts are always welcome and are tax-deductible. GSDC is a 501(c) a organization.

Donations of office supplies are also tax deductible.

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New Members 2015	
Benning, Susan	NL & P
Boeck, Donna	NL & P
Glide Veterans Memorial	Р
Hinshaw, Hayden & Carol	NL & P
Johnson, Jim & Vicki	NL
Pendergast, Robert & Roberta	NL
Sproule, Stephen & Kay	NL & P
Sundquist, Shirley	NL
Welton, Yvonne R. (Beliveau)	NL & P

Douglas County Pioneer

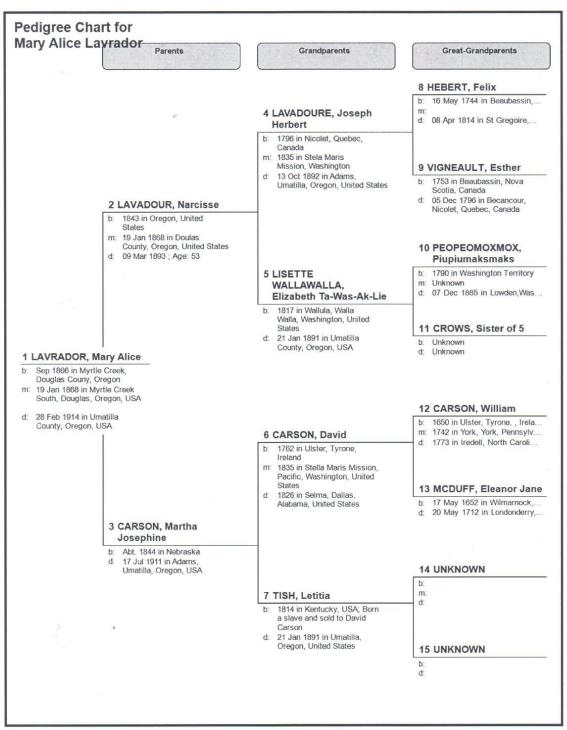
Douglas County, Oregon

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Part IV. The Carsons and the Lavadours, 1868 – 1886.

By Bob Zybach

For a number of generations, many descendants and relatives of Lisette Lavadour have believed her to be a daughter of Peopeomoxmox, the renowned Walla Walla leader that was brutally murdered and his body mutilated for "souvenirs" by Oregon Territory militia members on December 7, 1855. No documentation is currently known to support this relationship, but it seems entirely possible given that it has been widely repeated by a number of family members and local historians and has never been disproved.

Lisette's birth name was Tawasagklie, which means "one who gets her work done early" in the Walla Walla Sahaptin language. Tawasagklie's English name became Lisette Wallawalla and she is thought to have been born about 1817. Her great- granddaughter, Martha Lavadour Kirk (1), does not mention any direct family relationship to Peopeomoxmox, but was quoted as saying Tawasaqklie's sisters' names were: "Mrs. Eats-No-Meat, Mrs. Young Chief, Mrs. Matches, Mrs. Susie Liberty, Mrs. Yum-Sumkin, and I'm not sure about Annie Hair -Poker Jim was Annie Hair's father – Annie was related somehow." Aunt Martha's Journal states that Lisette was related to Annie Johnson, Vera and Elsie Spokane, "the Burke Brothers," Susie Liberty and Carrie Sampson.

Isaac Stevens, while traveling east to the United States on business in 1843, met with Peopeomoxmox and described him as having a "dignified manner" and owning "over 2,000 horses, besides many cattle." The Oregon Indians of the Columbia Plateau – the Walla Walla, Umatilla, Palus, Cayuse, Nez Perce, Yakama and Klikitat – measured their wealth in horses; Peopeomoxmox was a very wealthy man,

and said to be atypically generous to others less fortunate.

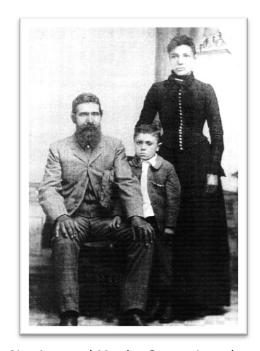
By the time of Stevens' visit, Lisette was married to French Canadian fur trapper Joseph Lavadour and they had four children: Angelique, born April 15, 1839; Narcisse – who married Martha Carson and became a stepfather to Mary Alice Bigham in 1868 – born January 1, 1840; Emelie ("Nellie"), born 1841; and Xavier, born April 14, 1842. Joseph was originally from Quebec and had traveled west as an employee of the North West Company and of the Hudson's Bay Co. (HBC). Perhaps the couple first met when he was visiting or stationed at Fort Walla Walla (originally called "Fort Nez Perce"), an HBC trading post near the mouth of the Walla Walla River, where Wallula is today.

It is entirely possible the Lavadour family was living within a short distance of – or possibly even in – Peopeomoxmox's village near the mouth of the Touchet River (a tributary of the Walla Walla River, and upstream about 15 miles from Fort Walla Walla) while Stevens was there. This was a very strategic location, along an historic, well- traveled trail and readily accessible to the Columbia River, vast grazing lands, the trading post at Fort Walla Walla, the Methodist Mission at Waiilatpu, the seasonal Oregon Trail, and the local resources of the "French Farms" - a Metis settlement of small farms and ranches that supplied the fort and mission with beef, vegetables, and dairy products. The Touchet River basin was also a well-known seasonal meeting location and crossroads for a number of major Columbia Plateau Tribes.

The Lavadours would have been comfortable and successful in either environment – whether the horse- and root-centric culture of the Walla Wallas or the hunting, trapping and farming culture of the Metis. Both cultures routinely traveled long distances, lived off the land, and traded

extensively; and often among one another. Lisette would have been very skilled in managing livestock, horse-trading and horseback riding.

Also, undoubtedly, in skinning, tanning and butchering, root harvesting, cooking, braiding rope, leatherwork and weaving. Joseph was equally adept at traveling by horseback or by canoe, and was an expert hunter, trapper, trader and fisherman. Between the two of them they were fluent in Sahaptin, French, English and Chinuk wawa -- the relative values of currencies in use by each of those cultures -- and were likely familiar and conversant in other native languages as well. For the 1830s and 1840s, the Lavadours were as capable of surviving comfortably as about any family in the Oregon Country during those years.



Narcisse and Martha Carson Lavadour

Again, assuming that Lisette was truly the daughter of Peopeomoxmox – and we have little evidence to believe otherwise -- then her younger brother (or half-brother) would have been his son, Toyanhu, who was 16 years old in 1843. The teen-ager had been

sent by his father to the Methodist Mission in the Willamette Valley "to learn English," where his name was changed to "Elijah Hedding." The 1845 murder of Elijah Hedding in California by a white American named Grove Crook has been given as one of the galvanizing factors leading to the 1847 Whitman Massacre (also called the Walla Walla Massacre), and to the subsequent Cayuse Indian War; which in turn were said to directly contribute to a galvanizing effort in Washington DC to create Oregon Territory in 1849, the Oregon Land Act in 1850 and, ultimately, Oregon statehood in 1859.

Toyanhu's murder went unpunished and the cattle uncompensated despite his father's best efforts to obtain "white man's justice." Plans were discussed among the Plateau Tribes of declaring an all-out war of annihilation against the Americans on the Sacramento and in the Willamette Valley. Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of the HBC in Vancouver, strongly advised against such a strategy and suggested contacting Dr. Elijah White, the US sub-Indian agent for Oregon, instead. After much delay, White promised a minimum compensation of \$5,000 for the lost cattle and to seek redress through the Governor of California for the murder of Tovanhu. Some letters were written to California officials, but they were not returned and nothing was done.

White left Oregon and didn't return for five years. No arrest was made and no cattle were compensated. This situation resulted in a return trip to Sutter's Fort by Peopeomoxmox and several tribal leaders and their families in 1846. Their imminent arrival was first met with terror and appeals for local military assistance for what was seen as a threat of "1,000 Walla Walla warriors, seeking retribution," but Peopeomoxmox said he had returned merely to visit his son's grave, seek justice for his killing, and compensation for the cattle:

"I have come from the forests of Oregon with no hostile intentions. You can see that I speak the truth, because I have brought with me only forty warriors, with their women and little children, and because I am here with few followers, and without arms. We have come to hunt the beasts of the field, and also to trade our horses for cattle; for my people require cattle, which are not so abundant in Oregon as in California. I have come, too, according to the custom of our tribes, to visit the grave of my poor son, Elijah, who was murdered by a white man. But I have not traveled this far only to mourn. I demand justice! The blood of my slaughtered son calls for vengeance! I have told vou what brought me here; and when these objects are accomplished, I shall be satisfied, and shall return peaceably to my own country."

Again, nothing was done regarding Toyanhu's murder, although there is some indication the Peopeomoxmox and his followers returned to Walla Walla with significant wealth from their journey.

It is claimed that when the parties led by Peopeomoxmox returned from California they also carried measles with them, for which the Indians had little immunity and there was widespread death among the Columbia Plateau Tribes as a result. Others claimed the disease was brought by Oregon Trail Pioneers during those years, and others claimed it was spread on purpose by the HBC, or by the local Methodist missionaries at Waiilatpu. Plans were made by Cayuse and

Umatilla tribal members to drive the white people out of Oregon, beginning with their own lands.

Important Work is Performed by Juvenile Officer

Miss Agnes Pitchford, county juvenile officer and police matron, has accomplished a work that receives little publicity, but has been an important factor in county service. Miss Pitchford's chief duties have to do with juvenile offenders, and her task carries her to all parts of the county. Through her efforts many wayward children have been shown their error and have turned to a different mode of life that will make them worthwhile citizens. She also has charge of the care of indigents, widows' pensions and charity work.

Miss Pitchford was born in Roseburg and served for 14 years as manager of the local telephone exchange before resigning to work as Red Cross secretary during the World war. She then served a term as city treasurer after which her appointment to present county office received.

Miss Pitchford's father, the late W. H. Pitchford, was the first editor of *The Plaindealer*, one of the early newspapers in Roseburg. She was the first county employee to move into the new courthouse, occupying her quarters two weeks ahead of any of the other officers.

*The News Review*Thursday, October 17, 1929, page 1, fourth section

Notice

Reward of \$56 offered to any person finding out and telling me the person or persons actually stealing my grapes.

Martin Brucker

The News Review Thursday, October 17, 1929, page 7

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