

# LONG MINISTERIAL CAREER IS ENDED

## Rev. J. W. Osborn Dies at Family Home South of Independence

The career of a picturesque and venerable character of the west—which has faded into oblivion—was brought to a close Monday when the spirit of Rev. J. W. Osborn took its flight to its maker at the family home a few miles south of Independence. Six feet five inches in height and with long flowing beard, Rev. Osborn occupied a venerable place in the hearts of hundreds of Polk, Linn and Marion county people.

He belonged to the old west. Simple in tastes, strong in character and staunch in fidelity. An ordained Baptist preacher for nearly 60 years, he spent his life in doing good. Much of his work was done without monetary recompense, and his efforts were confined largely to pioneering in spreading the gospel. While he had regular charges at times he preached at a multitude of places, some regularly and others intermittently.

Rev. Osborn was a direct descendant of the Tudors of English fame. His father and his grandfather were preachers and his greatgrandfather Osborn was a general in the Revolutionary army.

Born in Wisconsin in 1838, Mr. Osborn accompanied his parents when but a lad on an overland expedition to California in the days of gold. Financially, the project proved a big success and the Osborns returned to the east a little later taking with them a gunnysack filled with the precious metal, going by the way of the Panama canal. The family located in Iowa and the young man received his education at Central University, Pella, Iowa, and March 29, 1864, he was ordained a Baptist minister. For two

years he carried on his ministerial work in Iowa and Nebraska, but the call of the west was on him and in 1866 he again crossed the plains, coming to Oregon.

A very large part of his time since then has been confined to ministering in Polk, Linn and Marion counties, although two years were spent in the eastern Oregon country on account of his health. There are few Baptist churches in these three counties in which he has not occupied the pulpits at one time or another, and in the outlying districts he held forth in the school houses or any other available place. For years he carried on this missionary work fervently, receiving from \$250 to \$400 a year. At one time he held a regular charge at Dallas, at Airlie and dozens of other places and was instrumental in the building of many of the smaller churches in these three counties.

Rev. Osborn was married to Miss Cynthia Jane Adams, Sept. 7, 1873, at Marion Station in Marion county. She survives him, together with two daughters, Mrs. Adolphe Everding of Portland and Mrs. William S. Snyder, who lives south of Independence, and a grandson, Lionel Berry.

For approximately a score of years, Rev. Osborn and family have resided on a farm a few miles south of Independence. For more than a year he has been ill, being confined to the house a good portion of the time. Up until his illness he continued his preaching, although for several years he had not been able to devote as much time to it as he formerly did.

The funeral was held from the family home Wednesday forenoon at 10 o'clock, Rev. Proppe of Independence, Rev. Pace of Monmouth and Rev. Boyce of Lacombe, officiating. Interment was made in the Franklin Butte Masonic cemetery at Scio, where Rev. Osborn had labored for several years during the earlier days of his ministry.

The funeral was under the direction of A. L. Keeney.