

"UNCLE JIM" MCBRIDE

Islands becoming our 50th State. We have much to thank Dr. McBride for in this change of allegiance.

He also laid the groundwork for the purchase of Alaska. Without Dr. McBride's research, Alaska might still be a possession of Russia.

Dr. McBride retired from government service in 1867 and settled at St. Helens, Oregon where several of his children were living. He planted a church in St. Helens (Columbia City) and one at Scapoose, Oregon.

Their daughter Lucinda married Dr. Charles Green Caples and lived at Columbia City, just north of St. Helens. Their home, now called the *Caples House Museum*, is open for public tours. The phone is 503-397-5390.

Always busy, James died unexpectedly in his 74th year. His obituary appeared in the *Vancouver Independent* of Saturday, December 25, 1875.

Learn More —

A more extended story of Dr. James McBride and his famous family is on the Internet at: NCBible.org/nwh/ProMcBrideJ.html It includes a list of the children and their amazing accomplishments. Also there is a photo of the family's 1846 cabin.

The reader will also find four photos of their headstones in a cemetery at St. Helens, Oregon.

Dr. James 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

"UNCLE JIM" MCBRIDE

Many of the pioneer preachers were called *uncle* because most of them rejected the title *Reverend* as improper.

Dr. James McBride was born near present day Nashville, Tennessee in 1802. By the time he was eight, John Mulkey and James' father, Thomas, had left the *Baptist Association* and were preaching the message of being Christians only - not a part of any denomination. This was the message heard constantly by James in his impressionable years.



Dr. James McBride

When he was 12, his family settled near St. Charles, Missouri. James entered medical training at St. Louis. He began his practice at age 22, and also was ordained to preach the gospel.

When he was 28, he married Mahala Miller. Mahala may be short for *Mahalaleel* - praise of God. She was among those marvelous pioneer mates that morally supported their mobile husbands.

One of Dr. McBride's friends, writing in the *Millennial Harbinger* of 1850 spoke highly of him:

I had the pleasure of an intimate acquaintance with Bro. M'Bride, from the time I settled in Missouri until he left for the distant land of Oregon. He was an excellent man, and an able minister of the New Testament, and has doubtless done much for the advancement of original and primitive Christianity in Oregon.

The McBrides brought nine children across the plains in 1846 and had five more after arriving a few miles north of present-day McMinneville, Oregon.

They settled in Oregon, but with only an Indian pony, two wagons and five yoke of oxen. There were no cows for milk, no furniture, no tableware except tin plates and cups from the journey.

James McBride swapped two yoke of oxen and one wagon for a piece of land. The land he had selected was already claimed by someone else and he had to buy it from the "owner." There were tears among the children as the new owner drove off with the faithful oxen that had brought them to the new land.

The property had a tiny log cabin about the size of a tent and wheat had already been planted on five acres. The family moved into the cabin and also set up their own tent. Immediately the work of building a log cabin with two large rooms was started. A sawmill was just beginning operation in the area, so they secured milled wood for the floor.

The house was up, but not completed, by the first of November, 1846. Dr. McBride launched a school in one of their rooms. The first winter was brutal, but everyone survived. One family member wrote that ice was freezing three feet from the fireplace.

James McBride divided his time between doctoring, farming, preaching and later, politics and government service. He was among those who devoted great energy to preserving the Oregon Territory for the United States.

Dr. McBride was active in gospel preaching and especially church planting. He began preaching a few weeks after arriving in Yamhill County. He rode a preaching circuit in Yamhill and Polk Counties, but went to other counties as well. It is hard to locate a church of that era where "Uncle Jim" McBride had not preached.

The rest of the family attended the newly-formed Black Hawk congregation near Carlton where Aaron Payne soon became the preacher. It was established just after the *Amity Church of Christ* was founded.

In 1850, Dr. McBride was elected a member of the *Territorial Council*, where he established a reputation for being a wise and conservative legislator. He was appointed *Superintendent of Public Instruction* for the Oregon Territory. He served in the statewide capacity for two years.

Of their ten daughters, one died when she was about 16, the others married men of accomplishment. At least one of their daughters became a physician and another became the wife of an Oregon governor. Of their four sons, two entered law and political life. One became Chief Justice of the *Oregon Supreme Court* and the other became a U.S. Senator from Oregon.

Dr. McBride was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as Minister to the Hawaiian Islands. In those years, the Island kingdom was strongly influenced by Great Britain. By his wisdom and fairness, he encouraged the rulers to trust the United States. This has led to the