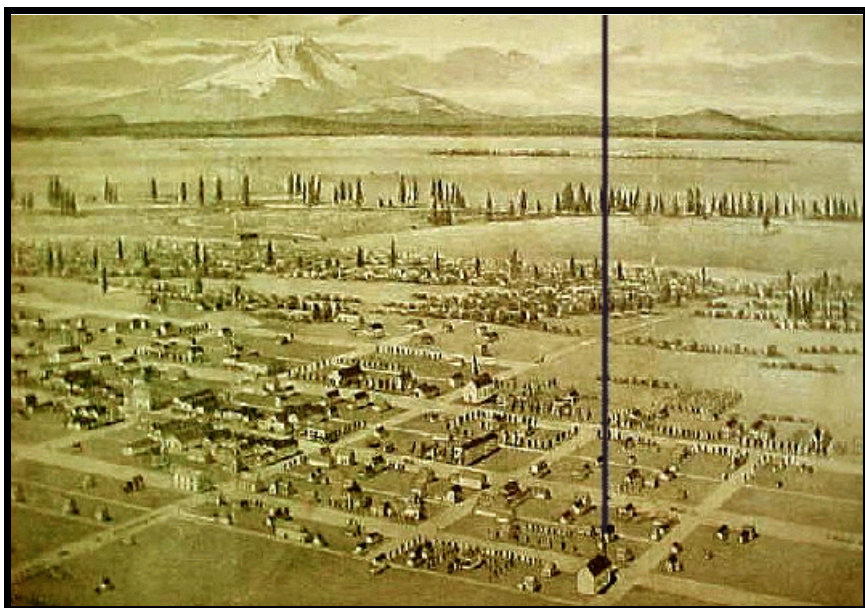


## PONY SHORT



In this rare, hand drawn panoramic view of Goldendale, Washington, the *Christian Church* building (later the Church of Christ) at Wilbur and Court Streets is at the bottom of the dark line. Mount St. Helens is in the distance. The original of the panorama is at the *Presby House Museum* and was copied by the staff for use on our web site.

For about fifty years beginning in the 1850's, a group of itinerant artists roamed America drawing incredibly detailed lithographs of cities. In the northwest two artists stand out in the crowd: Augustus Koch and E. L. Glover. But there were many other fine men working the trade.

We have a menu of 18 panoramas showing the location of church buildings at: [NCBible.org/nwh/Panoramas.html](http://NCBible.org/nwh/Panoramas.html).

## 🌲 PIONEER PREACHERS 🌲

PAGES FROM OUR PAST — A SERIES

by Charles Dailey

### MERIEL S. (PONY) SHORT

Pony Short was among the early gospel preachers in Washington Territory. Before Washington was a state, it was a Territory and before it separated as Washington Territory, it was Oregon Territory.

The development of Washington Territory was about 30 years behind that of Oregon, so the gospel preaching developed slower in Washington as well.

Meriel S. Short was born to John and Ava Short while they lived in Indiana. He was one of 11 children and may have attended the *Cherry Grove Seminary* near Danville, Illinois before starting overland to Oregon.

Mr. Short's oldest brother, Washington Short, was a preacher among the Christian Churches in the East for 50 years. However, Meriel was originally associated with the *Landmark Baptist Churches*. On one of their current web sites this group describes themselves:

We chose the name "Landmark" because we believe in the principle that the ancient landmarks of Bible teachings should not be removed. The landmarks of the KJV Bible, local church, faith and repentance, separation and holy living need to be reset and preached once again from pulpits across the world. Proverbs

## PONY SHORT

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22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

Mr. Short taught school in Marion County after arriving from the east. He was first located in the vicinity of Silverton, then later at Marion, near Jefferson.

In 1859 he married Louise (or Louisa), daughter of James and Eleanor Anderson, recently arrived from Missouri. Their first child, Viletta, was born in Marion. Over the years, they had nine children.

In 1861, the new family moved to Klickitat County, Washington and took the first homestead in the county. Mr. Short brought with him 65 head of cattle, but most of them died in the severe winter of 1861 - 1862.

From 1861 to 1866, Mr. Short operated a blacksmith shop on Columbus Road, near the Maryhill Museum. He became successful in cattle and sheep raising.

Along with preaching and cattle raising, Meriel Short carried U.S. Mail from The Dalles, Oregon via Columbus to a post office on Klickitat Creek.

Mr. Short was saddled with the name Pony after arriving in Klickitat County. One story has it that the name came from his work of delivering the mail using a pony and another story says he was a short and robust man that in some ways resembled a pony.

In 1875 he led out in establishing a Church of Christ in Pleasant Valley in Klickitat County. This is about 10 miles east of Goldendale. After a few years, the congregation moved to Goldendale and continues there to the present.

## PONY SHORT

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A church may have met for a while in Goodnoe Hills (about 1875), and it goes without saying that Pony Short was involved in its establishment. One early writer said that he devoted much of his time to church work.

A biographer who knew Pony Short said he was "An estimable man of high character, benevolent and charitable, he commands the respect of the entire community and is held in high esteem by his wide circle of friends in Oregon and Washington."

### **Learn More —**

A more extended story of Pony Short is on the Internet at: [NCBible.org/nwh/ProShort.html](http://NCBible.org/nwh/ProShort.html)

The detailed development of churches in Klickitat County is located at: [NCBible.org/nwh/WaKlickitat.html](http://NCBible.org/nwh/WaKlickitat.html)

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



Originally, the *Church of Christ* building in Pleasant Valley. It is now a Grange Building.