

Carey Allen Wooley

Cumberland Presbyterian Circuit Riding Preacher

Willamette Valley, Oregon

One of the circuit riding preachers in the Willamette Valley for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was Carey Allen Wooley, ordained in Missouri in 1859. C. A. Wooley, his wife, parents, and brother started west in 1859, but stopped in Denver, Colorado for two years while a family member recuperated from illness. They arrived in Eugene, Oregon in 1865.

C. A. Wooley's first pastorship was at Luckiamute (west of Corvallis, Oregon). He organized churches throughout the Willamette Valley at Mary's River, Luckiamute, Junction City, Dillard, Cresswell, Scio, Albany, and Dorena. He preached at many of the Cumberland Presbyterian churches throughout the valley (McMinnville, Lebanon, Brownsville, Eugene, Cottage Grove, Mary's River, Luckiamute, Junction City, Dillard, Cresswell, Scio, Albany, Dorena). Preacher Wooley often rode 20-30 miles on horseback to meet his preaching commitments¹. Proceedings of the session of Cumberland Presbyterians, Oregon Synod held in Scio in 1889 named Rev. Wooley as synodical evangelist.²

During C. A. Wooley's time preaching at Mount Pleasant Cumberland Presbyterian church, Reverend Wooley became acquainted with the various members of the Irvine family. As the Irvine family moved south to Tallman and Albany their desire to establish a new Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Albany grew. A local newspaper article dated March 20, 1891 shows this desire was becoming a reality "Rev. Wooley organized a Cumberland Presbyterian church in Albany on Sunday, consisting of twenty-two members. For the present he will supply them with a monthly service on the third Sabbath of each month, until such time as the congregation secures a house for regular weekly services."³ In December 1891 Reverend Wooley was again in Albany soliciting aid for building a Cumberland Presbyterian Church building in the eastern portion of Albany.⁴

After assisting in the dedication of Albany's Cumberland Presbyterian Church Reverend Wooley went on to preach there twice a month. Upon leaving the Albany church he went on to preach and develop churches in other Willamette Valley communities for many more years. He died 26 October 1915 at his home in Eugene, Oregon⁵ and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Eugene.

¹ Barton, Lois, "Carey Allen Wooley Family, Lane County Historian, Fall 1967, page 57

² Morning Daily Herald. Albany, Oregon. 23 July 1889, Tuesday. Page 3

³ Lebanon Express, Friday, March 20, 1981

⁴ Morning Daily Herald, Albany, Oregon. 3 December 1891, Thursday. Page 4

⁵ The Eugene Guard, October 26, 1915. Page 8