

Oregon Stateaman-April 10, 1892

SKAIFE.—At the family residence near Fairfield, Saturday, April 9, 1892, John Skaife, aged about 70 years. Deceased came to Oregon at an early day and was a well-known and highly respected citizen. He was a brother of Mrs. Eugene Breyman, of this city, and Mr. and Mrs. Breyman went to Fairfield yesterday to attend the funeral.

DIED.

Salem Capital Journal-April 9, 1892

SKAIFE.—At his residence, one mile east of Fairfield, April 9, 1892, John Skaife, aged 68 years. Mr. Skaife was an old settler on French prairie, and a good, honest, upright man, and one of the members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Mr. Skaife is a brother of Mrs. Eugene Breyman of Salem. He leaves a family of three daughters and one son, J. N. Skaife and Mrs. Sam Phillips residing in Polk county, Mrs. J. R. Broyles and Mrs. John Marthaler living at Fairfield. The funeral will take place at 2 p. m. at Fairfield.

DIED.

Mr. and Mrs. John Marthaler live on their farm home, half a mile from Fairfield, which is not far from the historic old towns of St. Louis, St. Paul and Champoeg. When I talked with Mrs. Marthaler at her home there recently she said:

"This place is known as the old Skaif place. It was taken up by my father, John Skaif. I was born here November 30, 1857. I guess you know my brother, Jap, who lives at Salem. He used to have a farm in Spring valley, near Zena. He is the oldest of our family. He was born at the foot of Mount Hood in the fall of 1850. My parents started across the plains shortly after their marriage, so the six months trip by ox team and prairie schooner to Oregon was really their wedding trip. My father was born in England and came to America when he was 18. He married Marietta Hiles. They had four children. Jap was their first child. Mary Frances was next. She married Sam Phillips of Spring valley, in Polk county. They live at Salem now. I was the next child, and Laura, who was born in 1861, was the last. She married Jim Broyles. She lives at Salem.

"When my parents came to Oregon in 1850 they spent the first winter at the home of Ben Simpson, father of Sam Simpson, the poet. The next spring they came up to French prairie. Father bought a squatter's right to a section of land on which the town of Woodburn is now located. Some of the heirs of the man from whom father bought the place wanted more pay. Father saw a Salem lawyer, who advised him not to buy a lawsuit; so father gave up that place and came here to White Oak prairie in 1853 and bought Mr. Mansfield's squatter's right to this place and proved up on it as his donation land claim. I was a student at Willamette university when T. M. Gatch was president. I also went to school at Portland to Professor Warren. I taught at Champoeg, Fairfield, St. Louis and in other districts. I was married April 8, 1891, to John Marthaler. We have five children! Among the oldtime neighbors on French prairie I remember best are Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Byrd, the Millsaps, Abraham Ditmars, Rev. D. M. Keens, F. E. Eldridge, G. B. Miller, Oliver Arel, P. Fishweiler, V. Manning, Father Bartholomew DeLorne, Andre La Chappelle, Simon Gregoire, Henry Wehrum, the Bagleys and the Lawrencees. Mrs. Byrd now lives at Salem."