

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Death of Ezra Meeker

Ezra Meeker died in Seattle at 4 o'clock on the morning of December 3, 1928. He was born in Huntsville, Ohio, on December 29, 1830. He did not quite reach his desired centennary at which birthday he had planned to round out his writings with one more book. From his writings and from his long sustained efforts to mark the old Oregon Trail, he had become the best known pioneer of the Pacific Northwest. A bibliography of his writings is being prepared. That and a sketch of his life are to be published in the next issue of this Quarterly.

The Oregon Country

The Oregon Society of the Sons of the American Revolution met with such success in its first series of four lectures on the Oregon Country that a second series was scheduled as follows: "The Missions," by George H. Himes, October 11; "The Relations with the Indians," by Colonel W. H. C. Bowen, November 8; "The Scientific Investigators," by B. A. Thaxter, December 13; "The Growth of Agriculture," by J. Neilson Barry, January 10, 1929.

The first series consisted of the following: "The Period of Discovery," by Professor Robert C. Clark; "The Period of Exploration," by Lewis A. McArthur; "The Period of Settlement," by Leslie M. Scott; "The Period of Organization," by Richard W. Montague. The purpose of these lectures is to stimulate interest in American history.

Passing of a Prominent Idaho Pioneer

William S. Lewis, of Spokane, sends news of the death last October of John E. Rees, a pioneer of Idaho since 1877, who had wrought out a remarkably varied career. The *Idaho Statesman*, the *Blackfoot Register*, the *Salt Lake Tribune*, and neighboring papers have been devoting much space to his achievements and his influence as a citizen. He had written much about Idaho and at the time of his death was under contract with a New York publisher to write a complete history of Idaho. He had made

great studies of the Indians and worked with representatives of the Bureau of American Ethnology. He had been a farmer, post trader at the Lemhi Indian Agency, lawyer and County Attorney, State Senator, and teacher of history and science in the High School of Salmon, Idaho. Much regret is expressed that most of his Indian lore was unrecorded and is lost unless others can glean some of it in the same fields he had tilled so faithfully.

John Ledyard Honored

At the annual meeting of the New London County Historical Society (Connecticut) a bronze tablet commemorating John Ledyard was unveiled at the Shaw mansion. The occasion had added significance since it was the 150th anniversary of the great voyage of Captain James Cook to Hawaii and the Northwest Coast of America and John Ledyard was a valued member of that expedition. Ledyard was born at Groton, across the river from New London, Connecticut, in 1751 and died in Cairo, Egypt on January 17, 1789. He was the most distinguished American traveler of his day. At the time of the recent memorial a paper was prepared giving a sketch of his biography and an appreciation of his achievements. It was from the pen of a distinguished citizen of New London, Howard Palmer, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and President of the American Alpine Club. That paper is well worth saving in the archives of the Pacific Northwest. It is not known whether separates are to be published but it appeared in full in *The Evening Day*, of New London, Connecticut, on Saturday, October 6, 1928, page 12.

Articles on the Pacific Northwest

A number of good articles worth saving for the history of the Pacific Northwest appeared in the July number of the magazine, *The Pacific Northwest*, published in Portland, Oregon. Some of these articles are "Montana's Place in the Pacific Northwest," by Governor J. E. Erickson; "Possibilities for Air Travel in the Northwest," by Charles N. Monteith; "Fisheries of Washington," by Dean John N. Cobb; "His Majesty—Mount Rainier," by H. M. Bilty; "Builders of the Pacific Northwest, I., Samuel Hill," by Fred Lockley; "Craters of the Moon" (Idaho), by William B. Pratt. The price of the magazine is twenty-five cents a copy. The editor is Albert Rebel, Securities Building, Portland, Oregon.