

Mr. Hodge will serve as advisory editors. The publications will be available only to members of the Society.

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*Wyoming Landmark Commission*

The State of Wyoming is rich in old trails and historic sites. The people are showing determined interest in the plans for placing permanent markers. In 1927 the Legislature enacted a law to provide for the Historical Landmark Commission of Wyoming, clothing it with ample power to acquire the necessary lands even to the extent of condemnation, known in some laws as "eminent domain."

The Commission has just issued its first *Biennial Report* showing a commendable amount of work already accomplished. One of the sites sought as a permanent possession of the State is Old Independence Rock, spoken of as "one of the great natural monuments along the old Oregon Trail." Names of hundreds of emigrants are still discernable, though many of them were traced on the old Rock in the early '40's. The natural monument, and the site of old Fort Laramie (as well as the sites of other frontier forts) are in private ownership. Efforts are being made to acquire them for the State.

The members of this first Commission are R. S. Ellison, chairman; J. S. Weppner, secretary, and Warren Richardson, treasurer.

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*John C. Lawrence*

Mr. J. Orin Oliphant of the State Normal School at Cheney, received in trust from the late John C. Lawrence, a carefully prepared manuscript entitled: "The Story of My Life." It was to be given into the custody of the State Library at Olympia. Mr. Lawrence has there recorded his forty years' of experiences in and around Garfield, Eastern Washington. He was a pioneer in educational work, an officer in the United States Land Office in Waterville, and later a member of the Washington State Railroad Commission. His last work was begun on January 2, 1922, with the Washington Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association at Winlock. In the last part of his book, Mr. Lawrence had placed twenty-one poems he had written from time to time.

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*Sixty-five Years of Wedded Life*

On August 18, 1929, felicitations passed between Olympia and Portland while two pioneer couples were celebrating the sixty-fifth anniversary of their weddings. Mr. and Mrs. William M. Blakeley

of Pendleton, had gone to Portland for their celebration. Many of their relatives live in or near that city. They were married in Brownsville, Oregon, on August 18, 1864. On that same day Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Simmons were married in Seattle. Since then they have lived near Olympia. Mr. Simmons was born on the north shore of the Columbia River in 1844 while the Pacific Northwest was under the Provisional Government of Oregon.

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*Pioneer of Alaska*

Charles Edward Gordon, now sixty-seven years of age, has settled in Seattle, his present address being 1912 Ninth Avenue. He has had experiences in many parts of the world but a large part of his life has been spent in Alaska. He was among the earliest gold discoverers at Nome. He did not keep a diary but he has a keen memory and is now writing for the benefit of those who may care for the exciting history of which he has been a part.

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*Teacher from Hawaii*

Prof. R. S. Kuykendall, Executive Secretary, Historical Commission, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, sends the following item by way of J. Neilson Barry of Portland, Oregon.

George T. Allan, one of the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company in Honolulu, wrote to G. P. Judd, Minister of the Interior, a letter dated May, 3, 1845, saying, "We shall feel extremely obliged to you and also Dr. McLoughlin by your procuring a Teacher to go in the *Cowlitz*." The letter is found in the Archives of Hawaii, Interior Department, Letter book No. 1, p. 31, and in the same source, page 36, is found the reply from G. P. Judd to George T. Allan, dated at Honolulu, May 13, 1845, as follows:

"The bearer, Wm. R. Kaulehelehe, is the teacher whom I have procured to go to the Columbia agreeably with the request of Dr. McLoughlin made through you. His wife accompanies him. Although not as well qualified as the person at first selected, I hesitate not to give him a good character and high recommendation as a faithful, industrious skilful Teacher, and in regular standing as a member of the Church. He will be competent to act as Chaplain to the Hawaiians in the Columbia. Mary L. Kaai, his wife, is highly recommended to me by Mrs. Knapp and I have no doubt will prove herself highly useful. To the especial care of the Hon. H. B. Co. I beg leave particularly to recommend them both."

The *Cowlitz* sailed from Honolulu, May 15, 1845.