

*Close of a Pioneer Chapter*

The death, late in 1932, of Mrs. Annie Hembree Cullen, wife of Major John W. Cullen of Portland, Oregon, marks the passing of the last survivor of the famous immigration of 1843. The news comes in a letter received by Mr. William S. Clark from Walter L. Hembree, of Portland.

In this *Quarterly*, Volume XI (July, 1920,) pages 178-182, there appeared an article by W. P. Bonney, of Tacoma, entitled, "Monument to Captain Hembree." The article comprised the address given by Mr. Bonney on Sunday, June 20, 1920, on the unveiling of the monument in the park at Toppenish, not far from the battlefield where Captain Absalom J. Hembree was killed in the Indian War on April 10, 1856. This article was made the basis of correspondence between Mr. Clark and Mr. Walter L. Hembree, a nephew of the honored Captain A. L. Hembree. This nephew had heard of that battle all his life and was glad to search the files of the *Oregonian* of that date for official reports by Colonel Cornelius and Captain Ankeny on the Battle of Satus Creek.

In his letter to Mr. Clark, Mr. Hembree traced some of the families of that name, saying that Mrs. Cullen was the daughter of Captain A. J. Hembree. His letter is dated December 7, 1932, and before sending it he added a postscript: "Since writing this letter I have just been advised of the death of Mrs. Cullen. Thus has the last survivor of the memorable 1843 Emigrant Pioneer Train answered the final roll call and that chapter is closed."

At the Toppenish ceremonies of 1920, Major Cullen was one of the speakers and Mrs. Cullen unveiled the monument to her father. Mr. Bonney's address had much in it about the 1843 immigrants and quoted Harvey W. Scott, editor of the *Oregonian* as follows: "It numbered about 900 persons, among whom were many strong characters and conspicuous ability as James Nesmith, Jesse Applegate, Matthew Gilmore, M. M. McCarver, who founded Tacoma; John G. Baker, Absalom J. Hembree, Daniel Waldo, William T. Newby, Henry A. G. Lee, John and Daniel Holman, Thomas G. Naylor, John R. Jackson, the first American settler between Columbia River and Puget Sound; Peter H. Burnett, who went to California and became the first governor of that state after it entered the Union; and many others." It certainly is the closing of a chapter when death claims the last survivor of that party.