

2013

Local Geography Notes

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Recommended Citation

Western Oregon University Archives, "Local Geography Notes" (2013). *Additional Resources*. 3.
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Geography

Illinois

Monmouth : Area founded around 1831 that was the county seat of Warren County, Illinois, and was the home of Monmouth College, established in 1853 by Presbyterians. Location where a number of families moved from and relocated to Oregon; city name that was chosen for their new settlement in Oregon.

Warren County : County in which Monmouth, Illinois is located. Warren Street in Monmouth, Oregon is named after Warren County, Illinois.

Iowa

Dutch Creek : Town that existed in Keokuk County. Joseph Butler, son of Peter and Rachel Butler, settled here.

Kansas

Allen Creek : William Cooke Butler settled in this area several miles north of Emporia in Lyon County.

Kentucky

Barren County : Peter Butler was born in Barren County. The Elijah Davidson family resided here before moving to Illinois. Squire Whitman married Elizabeth Davidson in Barren County. The county is located in southern Kentucky, next to Warren County.

Bowling Green : County seat of Warren County.

Warren County : County in southern Kentucky whose county seat is Bowling Green. To the east of Warren County is Barren County, where Peter Butler had lived before moving to Illinois.

Oregon

Bloomington : A community that once existed south of Monmouth in Polk County, Oregon.

Bridgeport : An unincorporated community on the Little Luckiamate River, located 8 miles west of Monmouth and 3 miles east of Falls City.

Buena Vista : A community founded in 1850 by Reason G. Hall on his Land Donation Claim located along the Willamette River in the south east portion of Polk County. The Land Donation Claims of both Peter Butler and Edward Ground were near Buena Vista.

Dallas : County seat of Polk County named for George Mifflin Dallas, United States Vice President between 1845-1849. Originally named Cynthia Ann and settled in the 1840s, the city was first located near Rickreall Creek, but settlers relocated to its present location by 1852. It was incorporated in 1874.

Luckiamute : An area in southwest Polk County that takes its name from the Luckiamute River, a tributary of the Willamette River, that runs through it.

Monmouth : City in Polk County settled in the early 1850s by pioneer families from Monmouth, Illinois, most of who were members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Some of the pioneers donated 640 acres of their Land Donation Claim property to establish the town and founded Monmouth University (presently known as Western Oregon University). The early founders of Monmouth supported temperance and were opposed to the sale of alcohol. When Monmouth was incorporated in 1881, the first ordinance forbade the sale of alcohol within city limits. Monmouth remained a "dry" town until the ban on alcohol was ended with a popular vote in November 2002.

Oregon Territory (OT) : Letters written between the years 1848 -1859 reflect the area of Oregon and Washington was called Oregon Territory.

Parker : A community that once existed south of Monmouth near the former Bloomington.

Polk County : Created in 1845 and named for United States President James Knox Polk who served during this time. The county seat is Dallas.

State of Oregon : Oregon achieved statehood on February 14, 1859 , becoming the 33rd state of the union.

Salem : Founded in the 1840s, Salem became the state capitol and the county seat for Marion County. It was named to honor Salem, Massachusetts, the home town of one of its founders.

Willamette Valley : The longest river in the state of Oregon at 200 miles, the Willamette River was discovered in 1792 but not given the name Willamette until the early 19th century. The river runs through 7 counties that make up the Willamette Valley: Benton, Clackamas, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, and Yamhill.