

WILLIAM MECK.

Another Pioneer Citizen Passes Away.

One of the Men Who Broke Traffic for the Arguments—The Pioneer Fruit Tree Grower of the Coast.

This morning at 5 o'clock, the spirit of Wm. Meck, the well known farmer and fruit-grower, passed away from his body, at his residence in San Lorenzo. Few men were more widely or better known in this county, this State or on the coast. His demise leaves a void in the community in which he has been a conspicuous figure for many years which it will be hard to fill. He was a native of Ohio, and about 63 years of age. For several years he has been troubled with liver complaint and inflammatory rheumatism, and the past summer especially has suffered greatly from the latter ailment. He was one of the pioneers of the coast. He left Van Buren county, Iowa, on the 1st day of April, 1847, and came to Oregon.

To Oregon City, where he arrived on the 20th of September, the same year, with a large party of immigrants. Among Mr. Meck's effects was a wagon loaded with fruit trees and seeds. This constituted the first lot of grafted fruit trees on the Pacific coast. These were seedlings already in the country, introduced by Hilsen's Bay Company. Mr. Meck bought at the town of Milwaukie, on the Willamette River, five miles from Portland, and went into the nursery business in January, with Wm. Henderson Lowelling, whom he had known in Iowa. In the fall of 1848 he came with an ox team to the California gold mines, and remained till the following May. The party he came with made the first wagon track from Oregon to California, passing through the Malheur country, and starting the lava beds, the first return to Oregon, he continued.

Till December, 1850. That year he sold out in Oregon, and removed to San Lorenzo in this county, where he has ever since resided. His first purchase of land was 400 acres of H. W. Crabb. It belonged originally to the Government, but was purchased 1,000 acres more, and all the pieces about three thousand acres of the choicest farm and fruit growing land in the county. He managed his fruit-growing and general farming with skill. In the latter he followed a system of rotation. He had a large almond orchard besides fruit trees of other descriptions in abundance. His cherry orchard has netted him as high as \$10,000 in one season.

His farm is supplied with water from a reservoir in the foothills a mile beyond Hayward, and some three miles from his late residence. In 1870 he erected one of the most complete and elegant farm houses in the county, at a cost of \$20,000, and \$5,000 for furniture. He paid considerable attention to the raising of horses and mules and sheep of late years. It nearly every variety that he made in this country, Mr. Meck was successful. His lands, purchased twenty years ago, at the price, have increased to a value of one million dollars. His cherry orchard being worth \$1,000 per acre. He was for several years.

But resigned the honorable position on account of increasing age, infirmities and business calls. He was elected a County Supervisor in 1862, and served three terms of one year each, being succeeded by J. B. Martin, who now represents Elgin Township. Mr. Meck never aspired to public office, but frequently refused nominations. His large possessions and property interests continued to occupy his time and skill up to the time of his death. His property is believed to be worth, upwards of half a million of dollars. The taxes upon his estate were paid last Friday, and amounted to over \$4,300.

He was married in early life, his wife dying in Oregon. Subsequently he married one of the daughters of Lowelling. At her death, Mr. Meck again married. His widow, together with five children, ten boys and three girls, survived him. His oldest daughter has been married some years to a Mr. Husckley. His oldest son is a promising young man of 27 years, and has much of his father's love of farming and industry, his experts in growing fruits, grains and cattle. The third child is a daughter of some 15 years, who is attending a leading seminary in this city. The two other children are a boy and a girl, both of tender years.

Will probably occur on Wednesday at 12 M., from his late residence in San Lorenzo. The remains of a pioneer will be laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery at that town, within a distance of the scene he lived so long, and where his later years were spent. The child known will attend, for a number of that order. He was buried in his lifetime with prominent funeral rites, and will be given a grand funeral, and will be greatly missed by those to whom he was always ready to lend a hand, once or counsel.