

WHERE THE WORKERS REST

From 1892 to 1934, this cemetery was managed by the Oregon Iron & Steel Company. More than ninety workers are buried here and in the adjacent Sacred Heart Cemetery. Some were local farmers who supplemented their incomes with part-time work for the iron company; others were skilled workers drawn to Oswego by the iron industry. Here are the stories of three of those families.

The Pauling and Blanken Families from Germany

Charles Pauling and Martin Blanken were brothers-in-law who grew up in Freedom, Missouri, a large German-speaking community of immigrants from Hanover. While Charles was born in Missouri, his parents, his wife and brother-in-law were all born in Germany. During the Civil War, western Missouri was the scene of constant guerrilla warfare because of tensions between the large slave-owning population and local Union sympathizers, including the German farmers. Confederate bushwhackers, like “Bloody Bill” Anderson and Jesse James, massacred anti-slavery civilians and pillaged their farms. The Blanken house was one of those burned while the terrified children hid in a cornfield. According to Martin’s son Herman, Jesse James later apologized for burning down the wrong house and gave the family thirty horses in compensation. When Martin Blanken decided to move west with Charles Pauling, he sold some of these horses to finance the trip. After a brief sojourn in California, the two families moved to Oregon where they found employment with the Oregon Iron & Steel Company for the next four decades. Three generations of Paulings and Blankens are buried in this cemetery, including the most illustrious member of the family, Linus Pauling. Linus spent part of his childhood in Oswego with his German-speaking grandparents, Charles Pauling and Adelheid Blanken. In 1954 he received the Nobel Prize for chemistry and in 1962 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Worthington Family from Hanging Rock, Ohio

Ohio sent more settlers to Oswego than any other state. The majority came from the Hanging Rock Iron Region, a center of charcoal iron production during the Civil War. In 1883, Theodore Worthington, an Ohio collier living in Oswego, returned to Hanging Rock to recruit workers for the iron company. The immigrants took the Ohio riverboat *Fleetwood* to Cincinnati where they boarded an “immigrant train” to San Francisco.



Oswego Pipe Foundry crew, c. 1915. *Courtesy of the Lake Oswego Public Library.* Workers buried in the Oswego Pioneer Cemetery.

FRONT ROW: 1. Lou White (#1), 2-3 Unknown, 4. Otto Johnson, 5. Bill Hyslip, 6. Mike Oaks, man in between above the sign is unknown, 7. Ernest Rankin, 8. Superintendent Walter Todd, 9. Charlie Nixon, 10. Matt Didzun, 11. Lou White (#2).

ROW 2: 1-2 Unknown, 3. John Fox, 4. Walter Chuck, 5. Jim Johnson, 6. Frank Garrets, 7. John Erickson, 8. Charlie Pauling, 9. Jack Monk.

ROW 3: 1. Milton Shipley, 2. George Bullock, 3. John Haines, 4. Willie Koenig, 5. Unknown, 6. Willie Austin, 7. Sam Cox, 8. Ed Hawke, 9-11 Unknown, 12. Steve Blanken, 13. Unknown, 14. Duard Fox, 15. Unknown,

ROW 4: 1. Martin Blanken, 2. “Banty” Coon? 3. Unknown, 4. Al Brandt, 5. Gene Worthington, 6. Elmer Shipley, 7. Jim Bullock, 8. Unknown, 9. Unknown, 10. Ernie Kaiser, Man in between unknown. 11. Howie Worthington, 12. Albert Hughes, 13. Bob Platte, 14. George Rankin, 15-16 Unknown.

BACK ROW: 1. Herman Blanken, 2. Hep Shipley, 3. Unknown, 4. Charlie McKeen, 5. Charlie Delashmutt, 6. Archie Worthington, 7. Charlie Horstman, 8. Unknown, 9. Henry Koenig, 10. Charlie Austin, 11. Cheney Headrick, 12. Unknown, 13. Pete Rankin, 14. Joe Chuck, 15. Ira Harrington, 16. Unknown, 17. Arthur Anderson.

EXODUS

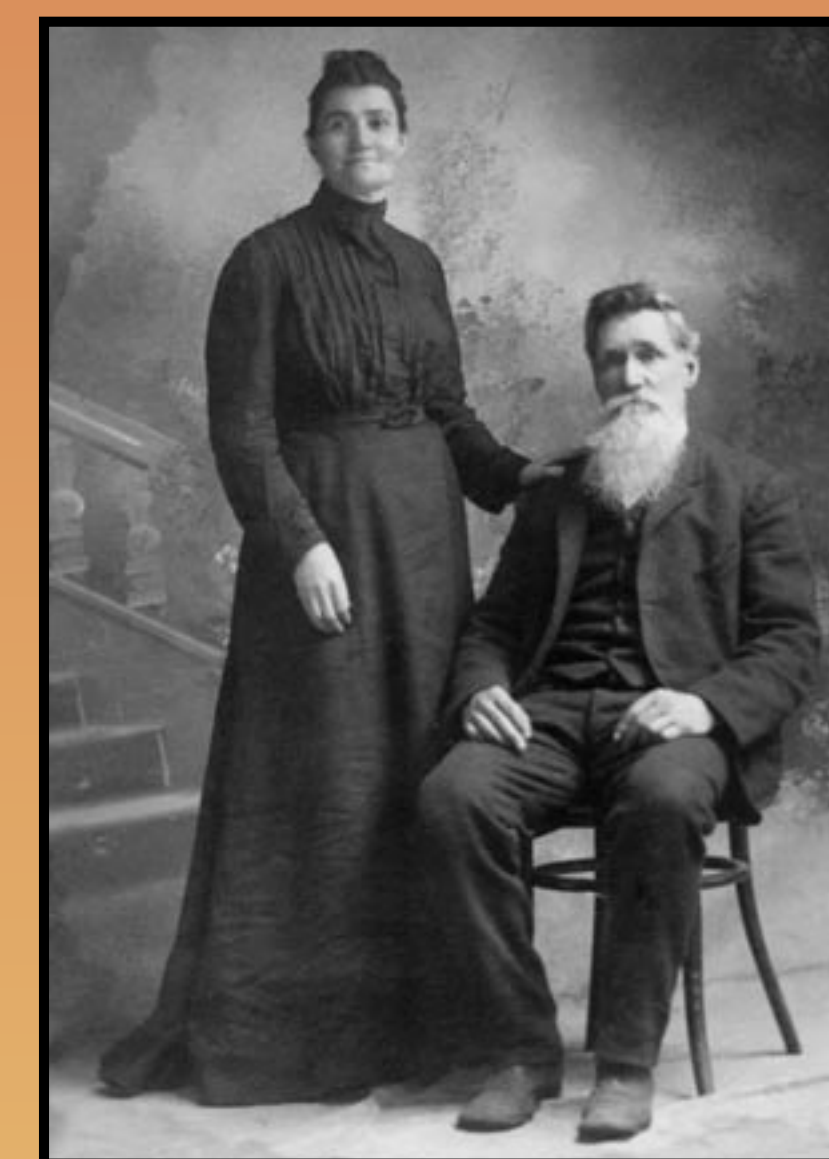
FIFTY EMIGRANTS FOR OREGON

“Last December, Mr. T. R. Worthington [Theodore Worthington] came to this country to drum up laborers for the Oswego Iron Works, Oregon. Mr. Worthington is himself a collier, and in that capacity has been employed at the Oswego furnace for seven years past. The lack of labor has been his chief obstacle, so he concluded to come east for a supply. He is a son of Charles Worthington, and was raised in this region.

He mustered up about forty active men.... They left on the Fleetwood, last Thursday evening, bound for Oregon under Mr. Worthington’s conduct. About twenty got on at Ironton, the same number at Hanging Rock, some at Union Landing and two at Portsmouth. Among the number we noticed some of the farmer boys from the bottom below the rock. The married men were accompanied by their wives and children. At the Rock, the departure was signalized by blasts of artillery. A great crowd gathered which cheered lustily, and were decidedly noisy with their affectionate farewells.

The emigrants went to Cincinnati, then by the [Ohio & Mississippi Railroad] to St. Louis, then to Texarkana and by the [Ohio & Mississippi Railroad] to St. Louis, then to Texarkana and by the South[ern] Pacific via El Paso to San Francisco; then by ocean to Portland, from which place Oswego is eight miles distant. It will take two weeks to make the trip through tickets, \$70. At El Paso, the emigrants take an emigrant train. A railroad agent goes through with them from Cincinnati to San Francisco, and sees them safe aboard a steamer at the latter place. “

From the *Ironton Review* (March 15, 1883).



William Worthington and Alice Cutright Worthington. *Courtesy of the Lake Oswego Public Library.*



The Blanken Family c. 1900. Front (l. to r.): Martin Blanken (father), Herman (9), granddaughter Laura Platt (2), Mary (mother). Back row: Stephen (18), Annie (16), Addie (12). *Courtesy of the Lake Oswego Public Library.*

Four of Theodore Worthington’s siblings were in the party. His brothers, William and James K. “Polk” Worthington, made charcoal for the furnace. His brothers-in-law, also worked for the iron company -- Albert S. Clinefelter, as a carpenter, and John C. Haines in the pipe foundry. The Worthington clan put down deep roots in Oswego and remained here long after the iron era ended. In the 1970s, William Worthington’s granddaughter, Ethel Schaubel, led the effort to rescue the Oswego Pioneer Cemetery from neglect.