

CYRUS WALKER HONORED BY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Presented With Historic Wood Cane in Honor of His Term as President

Henry George
1917

Cyrus H. Walker of this city, is the proud recipient of an historic cane in honor of his term of office as President of the Oregon Pioneer Association, which expired at the last meeting, July 19. The cane was forwarded by Geo. H. Himes, curator of the Oregon Historical Society.

The cane is made from three kinds of woods, Guaiacum, Oregon Yew and locust. It is mounted with a silver band on which is engraved the following: Cyrus Hamlin Walker, born at Whitman Mission, Dec. 7th, 1838. President Oregon Pioneer Association June 22, 1916-July 19, 1917.

Mr. Himes in his letter explains the history of woods used in the cane. He says:

"First—The knob or top is made of Guaiacum, a species of lignum vitae, taken from a rail road tie used in the construction of the Panama railroad in 1854, which was sent me by General George W. Goethals, Chief Engineer and Superintendent of Construction of the Panama Canal in the spring of 1911.

Second—The reddish wood is Oregon Yew, from a tree near the site of Champoeg, where the first civil government was organized on May 2, 1843.

Third—Locust, from a tree which grew upon the campus of Willamette University, Salem, said to have been planted by Dr. W. H. Wilson, who founded that place in 1837.”

Mr. Walker, who was the first white man and the second white child born west of the Rocky Mountains, the first being Mrs. Elizabeth Spaulding Warren, is one of the most prominent pioneers in the state and is well known in every city and village in Oregon where a pioneer of the early days lived, or where a chapter of the grange is located.

He is active in all historic society organizations, at pioneer reunions, in Grand Army work and in local and state grange work. The honor he received in being elected President of the state association was a merited one, befitting the long service he has given that organization and the service he has given the state.

Mr. Walker lives quietly in a comfortable little cottage with his family on the southeastern edge of the city, where he operates a small place and devotes his spare time to carrying on the work in the organizations which claim his interest and efforts. Mr. Walker is 79 years old, or will be on Dec. 7, and is active and vigorous for that time of life.