

McMinnville Masonic Cemetery
Character Study – Mahala Arthur Cozine
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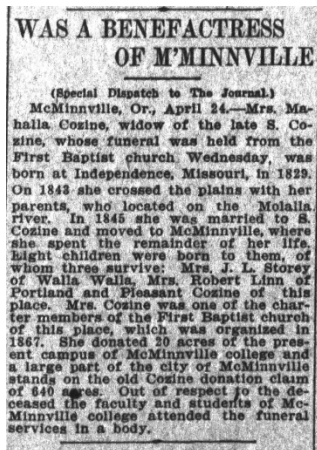


In honor of Women's History Month I would like to share a short character study of one lady of many who shaped the early Oregon Territory.

Mahala Arthur Cozine was born to Emeline Malone Arthur and William David Arthur on February 4, 1829, in Independence Missouri¹.

In 1843 the Arthur family along with more than 1,000 other men, women and children set out on a difficult journey to the Oregon Territory. Mahala was only 14 years old and from available records it appears she was the middle child of three siblings. With her sister Pricilla Arthur Constable traveling in the same wagon train with her newly married husband it can be assured that it was her primary responsibility to look after and assist with the care for her 12 year old brother William, wagon, and oxen.

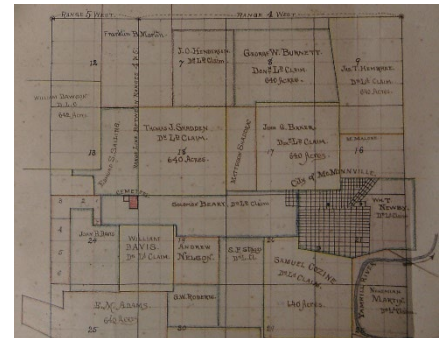
In October 1843 the wagon train arrived at the falls of the Willamette what is now known as Oregon City. It is unsure at what point the Arthur family left the wagon train to start their new lives. It is recorded that Newby (presumably William Newby who founded McMinnville Oregon) went farther northwest and arrived at Fort Vancouver by boat which they boarded at the Willamette Falls. The Arthurs might have accompanied the Newby's.



In 1845 at the age of 16 years old Mahala married Samuel Marcellius Cozine whom she met on the same wagon train west two years earlier. At some point during their early years they migrated to the county of Yamhill, and it was here that they decided to purchase a donation land claim and raise their family in the 1860's.

Her importance to the growth of McMinnville Oregon and the state of Oregon can be shown by her obituary. "Was a Benefactress of McMinnville".

Without the gesture of her donation to the campus of the McMinnville College which is now known as Linfield College, McMinnville and Yamhill County would be less prosperous than it is today. Much of the land that McMinnville now occupies was originally the Cozine Donation Land Claim.



Samuel and Mahala Cozine's home still stands in downtown McMinnville and is part of the city office buildings and the creek that runs through the city of McMinnville is named Cozine Creek.

Mahala died on April 20, 1908, 65 years after she arrived in the Oregon Territory as a young girl. Samuel and Mahala are buried within the McMinnville Masonic Cemetery in McMinnville Oregon.

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/123509325/mahala-cozine>