

Following Martha's death in 1882 and his remarriage to Sarah A. Babcock, Sebastian drifted toward her Unitarian view.

As in the case of Sebastian Adams, God can use talented and trained men and women to accomplish His purposes on earth. Whether or not that person follows through for the remaining years of life is strictly their own choice.

1 Corinthians 9:27 reads: “. . . but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” NASU

Learn More —

A more extended story of Sebastian Adams is on the Internet at: NCBible.org/nwh/ProAdamsWL.html (Look near the bottom of the article.)

Enter the author as “Adams, Sebastian” in a used book search engine such as www.addall.com/Used/

Sebastian Adam's burial record is on line at: www.open.org/rumcd/pioneer/ind0002.htm#178

Mr. Adams is discussed in *Christians on the Oregon Trail* by Dr. Jerry Rushford, available in many libraries.

For historical purists, the “C” in Mr. Adam's name does not stand for Cabot as widely supposed. It does not stand for anything except what it is. This is based on the findings of Bonnie Miller, Adams family researcher.

🌲 PIONEER PREACHERS 🌲

PAGES FROM OUR PAST — A SERIES

by Charles Dailey

SEBASTIAN C. ADAMS

First the McBride family and their relatives settled in the Panther Creek watershed north of what became McMinnville, Oregon, followed by W. L. Adams in 1848 and his brother Sebastian in 1850.

Like his brother Will, Sebastian had been raised with a Presbyterian heritage, but had learned the truth of being just a Christian without human creeds and using only the New Testament as a guide.

Adams had traveled the Oregon Trail but was in such a condition of hunger and sickness that others helped him finish the trip. He soon recovered and took up a Donation Land Claim (DLC) on Panther Creek.



The DLCs were grants of land from the U. S. Government for settlers. Single men were entitled to 320 acres and married men 640 acres. This encouraged many marriages among those planning to come west or who were ready to stake out their claims.

The eldest McBride daughter, Martha, caught the eye of Sebastian and he soon became the first McBride son-in-law.

The trip the Land Office at Oregon City required several days and may have been by boat on the Yamhill River. Those attesting his DLC claim at the Land Claim Office in Oregon City included his father-in-law Dr. James McBride, and his brothers W. L. and Oliver.

About the same time William Newby, a Christian emigrated from McMinnville, Tennessee, was developing a new town and naming it McMinnville.

One day Newby, James McBride and his new son-in-law, were dreaming about the future of Oregon and the not-very-literate Newby wanted to see a college established for their young people. Sebastian was offered land for a home and college right on the spot and construction began quickly. Work was supervised by Wilson Carl for whom Carlton was later named.

The *McMinnville College* dream survived only one year because of inadequate financing. *Bethel College* was getting started on Amos Harvey's land and it was only 15 miles to the south and had a broader financial base.

McMinnville College was turned over to local Baptists. Its six acres of ground, a building and equipment were transferred on condition that it would be kept as an institution of higher learning. It is now beautiful *Linfield College*.

Sebastian Adams was elected Yamhill County Clerk in 1862, then he was elected to the Territorial Senate where he served for four years.

While records show Sebastian Adams as preaching in a number of churches, we are not aware of church planting work on his part. His ministry was as an educator and preaching to newly established groups.

To get some sense of this great man, consider the note that he sent to David Stanley, editor of the *Christian Messenger*:

Dear Brother Stanley,

Permit me through the columns of the *Messenger* to report that I preached twice on Sunday, the 15th inst, and also on the 22nd, at this place to large and attentive congregations. Three very excellent and noble women and one old man of 75 believed with their heart, made confession with their mouth, and were buried by baptism into the likeness of Christ's death in the grand and beautiful waters of the Columbia river. I feel impressed that other precious sheaves will yet be garnered. My labors, though not "abundant," were fully equal to my health and strength.

Yours in hope,
S. C. Adams
St. Helens, July 23, 1877

Sebastian moved to Salem and was a teacher in *Salem First Christian Church* for many years until the death of his beloved Martha. While living at Salem, Sebastian completed his book entitled *A Chronological Chart of Ancient and Modern Biblical History*. It was advertised heavily in the *Christian Standard* of 1879. This was probably his most lasting work.

The book was published by Strobridge Publishers in Cincinnati, Ohio about 1874. It is covered with green morocco leather, 21 folded panels, each about 15 inches wide by 30 inches tall, chromolithographs backed with linen, about 22 **feet** when extended. It is a history of civilization beginning with Adam.

The reader may be interested in checking the current prices on the rare book market. The book now sells for in excess of \$700.