



Photo courtesy Beith collection, ca. 1956

## Where was Whiteaker? When was Whiteaker?

See the red balloon on the map.

There is hardly a trace remaining of this northern suburb of Sublimity, not that there ever was much geographically. But it was important in attracting early pioneers, especially the Hunts and the Darsts and the Downings.

From the preceding article on Paul Darst:

“After resting on the Clackamas river for two or three days, the four wagons proceeded up the Willamette valley on the east side, and along what might be called the mountain road. They passed the present site of Silverton, in the eastern part of Marion county, and on to the Waldo Hills country near the town of Sublimity. Here the party broke up, and as there was plenty of vacant land all around in this section nearly every man availed himself of the opportunity and became an independent landowner. Mr. Darst located on the claim which he afterward sold to George W. Hunt for \$100, and the same became famous for its fine stock, and was later the site of the Whiteaker postoffice.”



The cemetery that served this neighborhood is called variously Rocky Point, Anderson, or Lone Fir, on

Anderson Rd. south of Silver Falls Highway, according to Daraleen Phillips Wade, who mapped it in 1987. See her detailed notes at

<http://files.usgarchives.net/or/marion/cemeteries/rockypointcem.txt> Here is a sample:

“SMITH (large stone with 4 names]

Doctor W. Smith, July 12, 1842 - Aug 26, 1860 [Brother]

Frank M. Smith, July 20, 1832 - Mar 28, 1910 [Brother]

Harriet E. Smith, May 18, 1840 - Jan 4, 1858 [Sister]

Nancy HUNT, died May 28, 1874, 75 ys 2 ms, Wife of Doctor Smith [Mother]

“Nancy (Scott) Wisdom Smith Hunt was the mother of the others named on this marker. Her 1st husband, Joseph Wisdom, died young, circa 1815, leaving her with 4 small children. She married 2nd, Doctor Smith who died at Green River (Wyoming) on the Oregon Trail in 1847. They had 7 seven children, including the three on this marker.

“One of Nancy's daughters, Mandana Smith, married Duffy Kimsey and he is buried in adjoining space, having died quite young. Another daughter, Elizabeth Nancy Smith, married George- Washington Hunt [their donation land claim was about 2 miles east of the cemetery, at what was known as Whiteaker.] He was the son of John Shotwell Hunt who became Nancy's third husband. Elizabeth, George W. and John S. Hunt are buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery, which is on the John S. Hunt DLC.”

Here is the best information we have, thanks to

<https://willametteheritage.wordpress.com/2011/08/10/whiteaker-marion-county-oregon/>

Helbock, Richard. Oregon Post Offices, 1847-1982 Raven Press, 1985

“Whiteaker. Established 4 May 1880 and Disbanded 31 Jul 1903. Papers forwarded to this Address: Shaw. Named for John Whiteaker, former governor and then US Representative from Oregon. Located about 3 miles north of Sublimity, and 5 miles due east of Shaw. George W. Hunt, 1st Post Master.”

Macdonald, Joseph E. Stage Coaches and Stations 1850-1920 Western Oregon. Western Places, 2010.

Whiteaker, Marion County. 1900 pop. 12

The community is located on Beaver Creek 3 miles north of Sublimity. It was named for John Whiteaker, first Governor of Oregon. In 1880s George W. Hunt owned the general store and was first postmaster. The Whiteaker post office operated from May 1880 to July 1903 with mail to Shaw.

McArthur, Lewis. Oregon Geographic Place Names. Oregon Historical Society, 1982.

Whiteaker post office was named for John Whiteaker...established May , 1880, with George W. Hunt first of four postmasters. George W. Hunt was a well-known local resident who owned property in section 23, township 8 south, range 1 west. There was a store on the east-west road near the north part of his property and this is said to be the first location of the Whiteaker post office. The Hunt place was known as the Beaver Glen farm because it was in the vale of Beaver Creek. Old maps show that this post office was moved around from time to time but it was generally a few miles north of northeast of Sublimity. The office was discontinued July 30, 1903.