



1910 Rachel Belden Brooks Obituary

Transcript

AGED SALEM SLAVE DIES

Mrs. Rachel Brooks, Pioneer of '43 Passes Away

Woman was brought by Daniel Delancy, Dalles Murder Victim. Buried Treasure Her Secret.

Salem, Or., Oct. 13 - (Special.) - Mrs. Rachel Brooks, 90 years of age and believed to be the last of the negro slave women coming to Oregon, died here yesterday.

Mrs. Brooks came to Oregon in 1843, accompanying the Delaney family to The Dalles. Daniel Delaney was her master, and she was with him when Delaney was murdered by Beal and Baker, January 8, 1865. Beal and Baker were hanged in a large grove near the city, theirs being the first execution ever witnessed in Marion County, and thousands of people from all over the Willamette Valley thronged to see them pay the penalty for their crime.

After the Delaney family reached The Dalles, Mrs. Brooks, with the family was floated down the Columbia River in a wagon box. Delaney purchased Rachel Brooks as a slave girl, paying \$1000 for her. In the early '60s she claimed her freedom, and was married twice since.

She said she knew where a large amount of treasure was buried near the Delaney home near Turner, but never divulged her secret. Delaney was murdered on the supposition that he was one of the wealthiest men in Oregon. If this supposition was true, his wealth was never found, and there are many who believe that the negress' story of buried treasure is correct.

Mrs. Brooks is survived by two sons.

End of Transcript

See image next page.

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