

# Wallowa History Center

*Preserving Our Past for the Future*

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*The Wallowa History Center works to save the memories, stories, and photographs that define the history and culture of the places we call home.*

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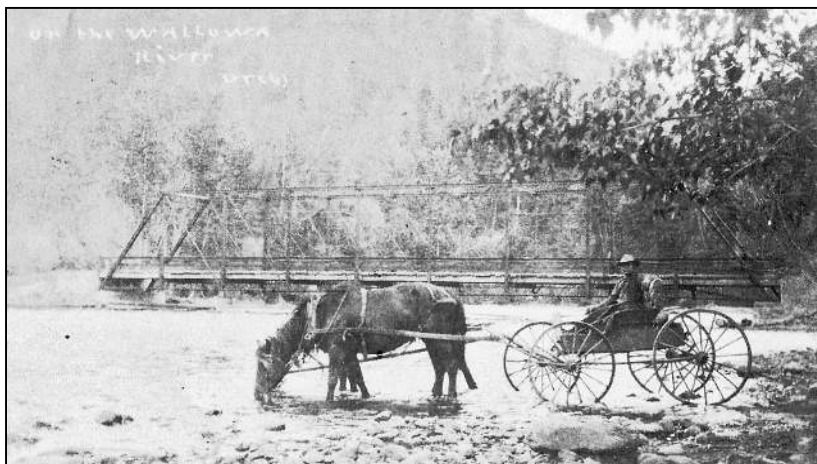
*In 1905 Ellen M Clark was living in the Wallowa Canyon in Northeastern Oregon and this is the story she composed for school telling about her trip to her Grandmother's home. She was born Dec 13, 1894 at Joseph, Oregon*



I live in the Wallowa Canyon in the northeastern part of Oregon. The Wallowa river flows past my home. The hills on both sides of the river are over a mile high. There are heavy forests of pine, fir and tamarack on the hillsides. Along the river bottom there are many willow, balm, hawthorne and numerous smaller shrubs growing.

One day two years ago (1903) this spring my father announced his intention of paying a visit to my grandmother who lives in Morrow county, about two hundred miles from here. As my grandmother had been writing for me to come over, I persuaded my parents to let me accompany him. It was decided

We should start May 13. We sent for a pair of shoes for myself, but, when they came, they were too small and it was decided to exchange them at Elgin, and I had to go barefoot that far. The day we started was





cold and windy.

It was five miles from my home to the Wallowa Hill. We walked up the hill, as we could not ride up on the bicycle. There is a winding road that extends a mile and a half from the Wallowa Bridge to the top of the Wallowa hill in Union County. We mounted the bicycle after reaching the top and it did not take us long to cover six miles of ground which lay between the top of Wallowa hill and the Mormon Church. It is about seven miles from the Mormon Church to Elgin. On both sides of the road there are fields of grain, of oats, wheat and barley.

When about five miles out of town the wheel broke down and we had to walk the rest of the way into town. All the way from the top of the Wallowa Hill the wind blew in gales, and the rain fell in sheets. We could not travel very fast the road was so rough and muddy. At last we reached Elgin and exchanged the shoes and got our dinner.



We almost missed the train. However, we were just in time and reached La Grande about five o'clock in the evening. There we changed cars and reached Pendleton about twelve o'clock at night. We were very tired and I was soon in the land of Nod.

The next day we had the bicycle repaired. We left Pendleton about ten o'clock and started across the sand and sagebrush of Umatilla county bound for Big Butter Creek, which is about forty-







two miles southeast of Pendleton. We overtook a gentleman who asked us to ride with him. We rode about ten miles, then he took a different road and we continued on the bicycle. We went up and down hill. We saw many jackrabbits jump up from behind some sagebrush and scamper away. About sundown we reached Vinson and Big Butter creek. It is seven miles from Vinson to where

my grandmother, Mrs. Ellen L Tippitt, lives.

At every house we came in sight of on the way up, I would ask if grandmother lived there. At last my father said, "Yes" to my oft-repeated question.

I ran down the hill to the house. My grandmother had come out to see what the dogs were barking at, and I don't know which was happier, she or I.



Ellen was the daughter of George B and Margaret E Clark. The family members were Charley O Clark, Ellen M Clark, Anna R Clark and Chester A Clark.

Ellen was born in December 13, 1894. She

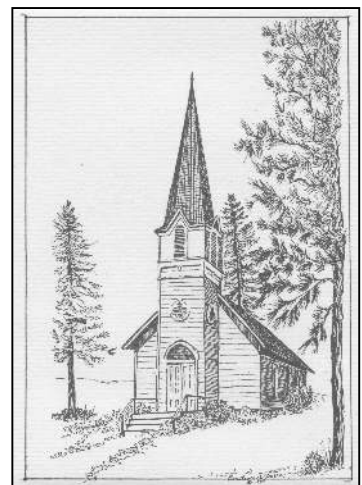
married Claude E Coats and died August 16, 1973, In the Dalles, Wasco Co. Oregon.



Grandmother, Ellen  
Cunningham Clark Tippitt



Mary Ellen Clark wedding photo



Pine Grove Church