

Doctor John Leonard George 1872 - 1941

typed by Dean Bones November 2022

John Leonard, son of Francis Marion & Emaline SUMPTER George attended Penn College in Earlham, Iowa.

His parents moved to Salem, Oregon, near Rosedale in the south Salem area. They lived on a prune orchard. Mr. George would be away at times holding revival meetings for the Quaker or Friends Churches.

Later their son, John Leonard, came to the Salem area. He taught school at Scotts Mills. He married Ora Lean Landrum who came to the Salem area to live with her mother's parents. Ora Lena was born at Stockton, California, May 30, 1877. John and Ora were married November 5, 1895. The ceremony was preformed by F. M. George, father of John. To this union were born Lucille, Lois, Lynn and LaVelle (Mrs. Jack Kinman) now living near Neskowin. Lucille's first grade teacher was her father.

In the early 1900s John L. George entered Willamette University to study medicine. He worked at the fire department spending the nights at the station to earn money for school and the care of his family.

After graduation he went to Cottage Grove, Oregon, and set up practice. He traveled to homes throughout the countryside by horse and buggy rented from the town livery stable. He forded the Willamette River at times as there were not many bridges to get to the farm homes.

One time he rented a team, and as he journeyed on his medical mission one of the horses dropped dead. He did not know that the horse had recently been on a long trip pulling a hearse.

On one confinement case he took a small string from a clothes line on the porch as he entered the home of the patient. He used this to tie the baby's umbilical cord.

Later he and Dr. Scarbrough bought a Stanley Steamer car to use. The roads were dusty in those days, and this was an open top car. They wore dusters and used lap robes, and the ladies wore head scarves.

One time his wife was with him on a call as she was a wonderful nurse by talent and often assisted him. It was necessary to drive through a farmer's field, and the gate had to be opened. He got out of the car to open the gate, and Lena got behind the wheel to apply the brake and then drive through. She failed to apply the brake, and the car rolled through the closed gate before it could be opened. The gate was put in order as best they could. Later John L. said he heard that the farmer wondered what had broken it. Perhaps the cattle had been disturbed and had broken through it.

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Our first home in Creswell was a small green one near the Southern Pacific train tracks. Very often we had tramps get off the trains and come to our house to eat and were seated at our kitchen table. We never were afraid or harmed in any way.

Lynn was born here in 1907. Later a new house was built near the Methodist church where we attended as there was no Friends church near.

Father was active singing in the choir. He had a lovely tenor voice developed in early days in lowas where groups met together to sing. It was called "singing school". He played a clarinet in the Creswell band. He was also a gifted violin player. In our home Lucille or I would sit at the piano, and J. L. would beat out the time as we tried to play. He would play each part on an instrument or sing each part. What a teacher!

In 1912 John L. and family moved to Cloverdale by train to Tillamook and then on to Cloverdale by car. John L. came first to locate a place to live which was the back room and one bedroom in the dwelling of Charley Ray and his niece, Millie Iler. They ate at the hotel which he owned. This house still stands (1978) and belongs to Molly Fox.

John L built an office, and it is the present Cloverdale Post office (1978).

During WWI John L. went into the Nestucca Valley bank to become manager, cashier, bookkeeper, etc., while Edward McCabe and Walter Logus went to war. Lois helped post the ledger after school.

Just before this takeover of the bank, John L. had Art Coffey and Fred Thun build a new house south as you leave Cloverdale. This house still stands and is in good repair.

Doctors following John L. were J. T. LeFevre and E. J. Shearer. Along about 1926 Dr. Hugh Brown opened an office next to where the drug store is now (1978). William A. High owned the store. Dr. Brown eventually moved to Tillamook.

Dr. Shearer, who had been an army surgeon, built himself a small hospital.

Dr. George took his family to Portland for a month or so. He rented an apartment on Belmont Avenue near Laurelhurst Park District. John L. owned a model T. Ford. He made a sign, Jitney, and placed it on the windshield. He drove up and down Hawthorne Ave. S.E. carrying passengers for a small charge. He charged \$.05 - \$/10 at the most. He needed no city permit.

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He purchased the old Fleck farm from J. L. Gray located halfway between Hebo and Cloverdale. Here is where LaVelle was born. Here is where Lucille George and Zada Christensen stayed for one term going to Cloverdale High School. Zada was the daughter of Will Christensen and this was the beginning of the courtship of Lucille and Fred W. Christensen.

Lena was a real farmer, and it was her idea to buy the farm. John L. was never really happy there through he worked hard, dug a cesspool 'till his arm felt paralyzed and put coils in a wood range for hot water. Heating water in a copper wash boiler on a wood range and transferring it to a wash tub for a bath was now a thing of the past.

Dr. George practiced medicine a month or so in Tillamook for Dr., Robert Boals while he went east to get help for an X-ray burn on his hand which he got in the use of the X-ray machine in his hospital (which was Buel Apartments in 1978). This was also the time for the family to move to Nehalem for a short while living in the Spencer cabin back of the old Tohl hotel.

The wedding of Lucille and Fred W. Christensen took place in this cabin on December 12, 1916. She was 20 years old. The bride made her own wedding dress which was light pink silk with small beads sewed on around the neck, sleeves, etc. Memory thinks it was a beautiful gown.

They moved back to the Hebo farm.

Brooten Springs and Mineral House, etc., was on the farm of H. H. Brooten south of Cloverdale on the way to Pacific City. This kelp ore was mined, made into liquid, sold served, used in hot baths and according to the thought of H. H. Brooten could cure anything.

The authorities made him have a doctor on the premises. So, Dr. George, Lena, Lois and LaVelle moved to a hotel cabin of which there were many. Lois went on to school. Lena almost had a nervous breakdown over the foolish thoughts of H. H. Brooten. Finally the decision was made for Lena and Lois to move to Portland where Lois enrolled in Portland Bible School. Dr. George visited on weekends. Just before moving to Portland Lena broke her ankle, and so she was quite helpless.

They moved back to the Hebo farm, and in 1936 Clark Thun moved the furniture of the George family to Tillamook to a house located where the present post office is now located (1978). They lived there a year or so. The Federal Land Bank had several districts with William Reichers as secretary with offices in the First National Bank. The districts were formed into a group, and J. L. George was selected to become the

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secretary with offices in what is known as the William Cooper building. Mr. Cooper was a lawyer practicing around the turn of the century. The building was on East First Street across from the present courthouse. The courthouse was built on Thayer property.

In 1936 Lois became Mrs. Henry Schild, and LaVelle became Mrs. Jack Kinman. Lynn lives in California.

J. L. continued to drive back and forth to the Hebo farm to cut wood, etc. On May 14, 1941, after cutting wood he was tired and hot so he stopped at the barn, drank some warm milk, got into his car and drove on to Tillamook. He came into town on Stillwell Avenue thinking to get the mail at the post office located in the Masonic Building at the corner of Second and Ivy. He lost control of the car. It ran upon the sidewalk across from the present Copeland Lumber Company. The car stopped when it ran into a tree in front of the present Eagles Lodge building. he slumped down over the wheel. The men from the fire department tried to revive him. He opened his eyes and then died from a heart attack.

John Leonard George was quiet and shy-like with a pleasant smile as he met people on the street. As a carpenter depending on accurate measurements he was very exacting. He was quite witty telling jokes at opportune times. This trait must have come from F. M. George who carried written jokes with him in his pocket to tell others.

He was able to set a broken bone in perfect order without modern X-ray equipment.

When one was accused of wrongdoing especially one of his own if he knew they were innocent he stood by defending them to the limit. He took his stand for right never flinching. He expended himself for others.

He attended the Christian Church in Tillamook but would slip out without speaking to many as he made his way homeward.

He provided well for his household. He never smoked or tasted liquor. He said that was no credit to him for he was never tempted or cared to do so.

We do thank God for a wonderful father and grandfather.