

OREGON CITY HOME OF 'MAN WITH HOE' S

Research Reveals Markham S Born Near River

OREGON CITY, April 13 (Special)—Erroneous reports that Edwin Markham was born on a farm on the Abiqua river, published a few months ago, stirred Oregon City people to locating the actual birthplace of the famous poet, who now resides on Staten island, N. Y.

Markham was born in a little yellow house which stood at Fifth and Water street in this city, facing the Willamette river, and which went out in the flood of 1861-2.

VISIT MADE IN 1921

This fact was established by Fred S. Perrine, secretary of the chamber of commerce, after communicating with various early day residents of the city. The Markham family later lived in a house which stood between Main and Water streets and Twelfth and Thirteenth, which Mr. Markham, on a visit here in 1921, picked. He visited this cottage, which stands on an alleyway, in company with Eva Emery Dye, historian, and Fred Parker, now deceased, and expressed the belief that he was born in that building.

This, in the light of information supplied by older settlers, is believed to be an error, since Sarah Hunsaker Tompkins of Dayton has written that her late husband, Josephus Tompkins, and her sister, the late Mrs. D'Arcy, agreed that the Markham family lived "near where the Pope residence was, and perhaps now is." This residence is now known as the Empress hotel, facing Water street, between Fifth and Sixth.

FAMILY MOVED IN 1859

Mrs. Tompkins says the Marquam family moved to California in 1859, when Edwin, whose "Man With the Hoe" has since brought him into first rank among American poets, was 7 years old. Because of Edwin Markham's age when the family left Oregon City it is considered reasonable that he may have been mistaken as to the house in which he was born and confused his birthplace with a dwelling in which he spent a part of his early boyhood.

Records in the courthouse here show that Elizabeth Markham, the poet's mother, bought lot 5 in block 11 from Dr. John McLoughlin before March 4, 1849, and that she also owned other property in what is now downtown Oregon City.

MISS LENNON LEADS

CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Oregonian, CITY ed., 14 Apr. 1935, p. 15. NewsBank: America's News - Historical and Current, infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=image/V2%3A11A73E5827618330%40EANX-NB-12A4BBF51C02FD5D%402427907-129F0FDBEF1D36A0%4014-129F0FDBEF1D36A0%40. Accessed 5 Feb. 2023.

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