

DOUGLAS COUNTY MUSEUM

Post Office Box 1550, ROSEBURG, OREGON 97470

Dial 503/672-5961

CURATOR

George B. Abdill

June 11, 1974

Mr. Justin Vincent
1570 24th N.E.
Salem, OR

Dear Mr. Vincent:

I recently noted in a local newspaper that you had visited in our county and the item noted that you are a ^{great} grandson of Joseph Lavadour *(first)*

Joseph Laverdure (or Lavadour), with Alexander Dumont and their wives, said to be of the Pend d' Oreille Nation, reportedly camped and trapped on the South Umpqua river at an early date. Local sources sometimes give this date as 1820, but I am of the opinion that date is too early.

Alexander Guerette, dit Dumont, was born in 1815 and came to Oregon in 1836, so I think any expedition by him and Joseph Lavadour would have been after that date; in 1820 Dumont (as Guerette was called) would have only been 5 years old. Sometimes the name of the Laverdure (Lavadour) who first settled here is given as Xavier, rather than Joseph. At any rate, Joseph evidently left Douglas County for he and his wife, listed as Lizette Walla Walla, are both buried in St. Andrews Mission Cemetery east of Pendleton. He was born in 1791 (?) and died in 1892. She was born in 1817 (?) and died in 1891.

Should be Joseph not Xavier

My questions are:

36

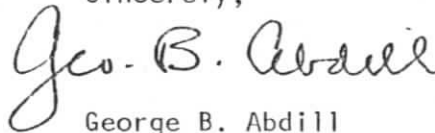
1. Were Joseph and Lizette Lavadour your grandparents? *great grandparents*
2. Do photos of them exist? (If so, we would be happy to pay to have them copied for our Museum's files.) *None exist*
3. The stones at St. Andrews were erected by "William & Grace McGinnis." Old records show that Angelique Laverdure married John McGinnis "on the South Umpqua" and in 1860 two children, Edward, *(Buddy)* aged 3, and Marie Helene, aged 5 were baptised at Oregon City. Is William McGinnis, who put up the grave markers, of this family? *grandchild*
What has become of any McGinnis descendants? Who might know of the family history?

*Refer to Geo. B. Rondeau
681 Monument Rd
Grants Pass, Ore.*

- * 4. Do you have, or know of anyone who might have, any history or recollections of the pioneer Laverdure - Lavadour family of our county?

Any help you can give us will be most gratefully appreciated, as we are trying to compile a history of our earlier pioneer settlers. Thanks so very much for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



George B. Abdill
Director

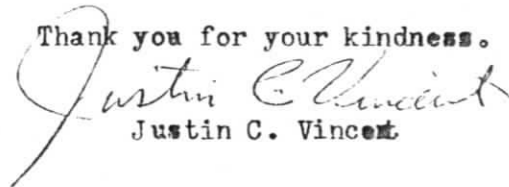
GBA/ka

N.B.: We have a photo of David Vincent and his wife, Catherine Shasta Dupatty (or Desportes -- she was formerly married to J.B.D. McKay). Mr. Vincent, of French or French-Canadian descent, reportedly died in a soldiers home at Vancouver, Washington. Is this man any relation?

If you will please send me a picture of this Mr. David Vincent so that I might compare it with a picture of my father, Cyril J. Vincent, dec., I would greatly appreciate it. I will gladly pay for this.

My father was adopted from Vancouver, Washington and when he tried to trace his records all had been lost when the old court house in Vancouver had burned so I have no way of knowing any of his relation. This Mr. David Vincent could very well be some of my relation.

Thank you for your kindness.



Justin C. Vincent

June 21, 1974
Salem, Oregon

Handwritten notes:
12-20-74
P.O. Box 1550
Roseburg, Ore.

Mr. George B. Abdill
Curator, Douglas County Museum
Box 1550
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Dear Mr. Abdill:

Please forgive my delay in answering your letter, but trying to compound the information you requested into a short letter has taken awhile.

Since the first time my wife and I were visitors to my grandparents and great-grandparents old homestead we have been quite busy. We have journeyed to eastern Oregon and my aunt, Martha (Lavador) Kirk returned with us.

We again visited in this area, this was her first time back in 51 years and she enjoyed it immensely. Through her I have been able to tabulate most of the following information.

As this was way before my time I'll try to the best of my knowledge to narrate as this was told to me by older relatives and from paragraphs taken from "Northwest Passage" by B. C. Payette.

My great-grandfather, Joseph Lavador I and two brothers: Louis and Charles came from Canada. In 1805 Joseph I was employed by N. W. Company and Hudson Bay Fur Trading Co., and with a company of seventy-five men was stationed at English River. Louis was in a company of thirty-nine men at Fort Dauphin; while Charles served with a company of sixty men at Fort Des Prairies.

My knowledge regarding Louis & Charles is very scant, they took leave and went into Montana, married women from that Reservation's territory and settled down rearing their children. During the years of the Depression some of these families moved into Idaho, so I have heard.

My great-grandfather, Joseph I, married a woman of the Walla Walla tribe. So he and wife Lissette were residing at Waiilatpu during the Whitman Massacre Nov. 29, 1847. While residing in this area their eldest child, Xavier, was born; April 14, 1842.

After this time they journeyed southward during the gold rush days where my grandfather, Joseph II was born at or near Yreka, California on March 2, 1854. His younger sister Isabelle (French) was born there two years later.

After a lapse in years, in May or June 1857, they returned to Oregon and took a homestead in Umpqua Valley. (Mr. Ray Wright and wife now own a portion of this homestead; at one time they owned it all.) Across the highway from the Wrights stood the old "Lavador School", christened in my great-grandfather's honor.

Sometime prior to 1887 they abandoned this homestead and migrated to the Umatilla Indian Reservation--a farming location east of Pendleton, Oregon-- where I was born and raised.

To this union were born six children: four sons and two daughters, Namely: Xavier, Joseph, Narcisse, Scott, Angelique and Isabelle.

All of this generation is now deceased and all are buried in Eastern Oregon, except Angelique (McGinnis). All in our family called her Aunt Ann.

Joseph Lavadour II and wife Mary Alice Bigham of Adams, Oregon were my grandparents; in fact I was born at their homestead here.

Grandfather passed away March 17, 1940 and grandmother on May 16, 1942. Both are buried in Athen^a, Oregon Cemetery.

To this couple were born seven children. The eldest surviving heir is Martha O. Kirk (83 years of age) Canuse, Oregon. Second eldest is her younger brother, Bert Lavadour (81 years of age) Pendleton, Oregon and then my mother, Iva Erickson (76 years of age) Santa Rosa, California.

The third and fourth generations of relatives of Joseph and Lissette Lavadour are numerous and scattered throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho and as far north as Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Other questions you requested answered are on your enclosed letter in my aunt Martha's handwriting.

Mr. Abdill, I'd be pleased to have you correct any grammatical errors I may have incurred before and if this history goes to press.

I will be grateful for information of date of next publication of Pioneer Days in Canyonville.

I am most happy to be able to contribute to the memory of my great-grandparents and descendents.

Most sincerely yours,

Justin C. Vincent
Justin C. Vincent

Information furnished by Martha O. Kirk.

Justin C. Vincent
381 22nd St. N. E.
Salem, Oregon 97301