

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Adopt the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	3 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Carter, Gordly, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Kruse, Courtney
Prepared By:	Shannon Strumpfer, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Declares March 30, 2007 to be Robert ‘Doc’ Newell Day in Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Settlement of Champoeg
- Importance of Newell in Oregon history

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: By 1840, Robert Newell and Joseph Meek both had married Nez Perce women, had growing families, and were tired of the trapping life in eastern Idaho. They were anxious to make permanent homes in some agreeable country where they might find schools and other advantages for their children, choosing Oregon’s Willamette Valley. They attempted to bring wagons to the Willamette Valley, the first such attempt. Writing about the effort years later, Robert Newell said:

“On the 15th of August, 1840, we put out with three wagons; Joseph L. Meek drove my wagon. In a few days, we began to realize the difficult task before us, and found that the continued crashing of sage under our wagons, which was in many places higher than the mules’ backs, was no joke. Seeing our animals begin to fail, we began to lighten up, finally threw away our wagon beds, and were quite sorry we had undertaken the job. All the consolation we had as that we broke the first sage on the road, and were too proud to eat anything but dried salmon skins after our provisions had become exhausted. In a rather rough and reduced state, we arrived at Dr. Whitman’s mission station, in the Walla Walla valley, where we were met by that hospitable man, and kindly made welcome, and feasted accordingly. On hearing me regret that I had undertaken to bring the wagons, the Doctor said: ‘Oh, you will never regret it; you have broken the ice and when others see that wagons have passed, they too, will pass and in a few years the valley will be full of our people.’”