

*(Received: Jan. 12, 1999.  
(Answered Jan. 13, 1999)*

January 3, 1999  
Sharon Tiffany, Executive Director  
Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center  
P. O. Box 396  
990 S. W. Rock Creek Drive  
Stevenson, Washington 98648

Dear Sharon,

During my family's visit to the Interpretive Center January 2, I was thrilled and extremely surprised to see a picture that I have in a family album at home. The picture is of the school at Fort Cascades with the teachers and children in front. My picture is labeled as "Minerva Bryant's school at The Dalles, Or". Three years ago I contacted the Wasco County Historical Museum in search of information about Minerva and the picture but the search was a dead end. Now to find the very picture I have in your Interpretive Center is fantastic. I am enclosing a Lazer Copy of the picture I have plus an individual picture of Minerva taken on the same day as the group picture (I think) because the dress looks identical. Minerva is the teacher on the left holding the bell.

Minerva Bryant is a sister of my Great Grandmother, Mary Jane Bryant Olmsted. Minerva was born in Java, New York 14 April 1844. She married William McCready and had two children, Thomas and Claude. I have no marriage dates or birth dates for the children but on the back of the picture of Claude is Brodeck & Co., Walla Walla, W.T. Minerva died 11 Nov. 1912. I know not where.

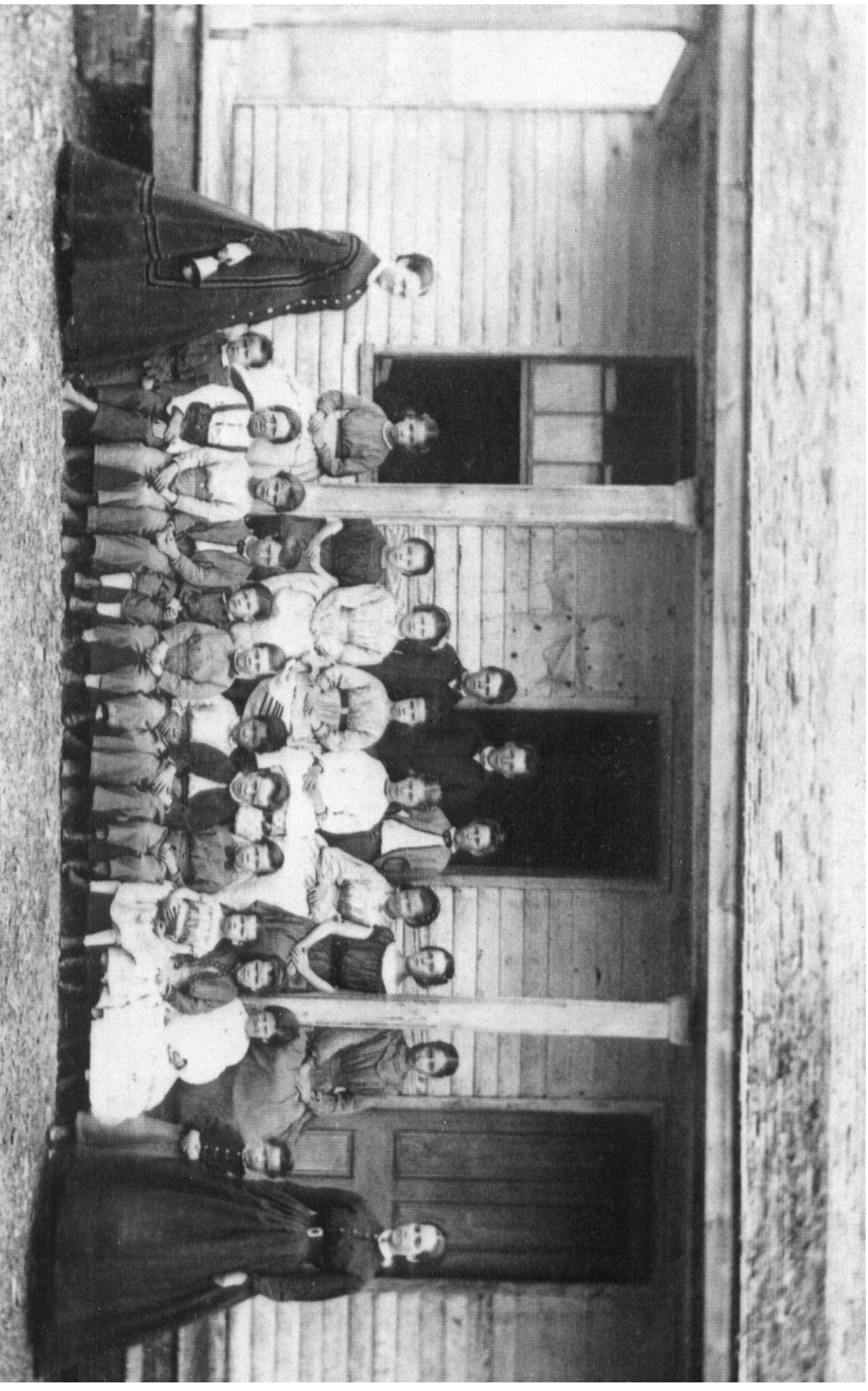
I have always been curious as to why and how Minerva ended up in The Dalles, Or. or rather it seems at Fort Cascades, W.T. The picture in your exhibit is named and dated C. E. Walkins 1867, Oregon Historical Soc. Neg. 38,498 stereo. In the exhibit at Fort Cascades the picture is labeled as the school in the Quartermaster Portage Party House. Why is the picture in the Oregon Historical Soc. files and not Wash. Hist. Soc.?

There is no record of Minerva in the census of The Dalles, Oregon for 1860 or 1870 but now I will get back to the archives here in Seattle and check out Fort Cascades. I am not sure of the county but I think I can figure that one out.

I have other background information about Minerva and would be happy to send you the information if you wish. Look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dotty Charlson  
17161 Sealawn Dr.  
Edmonds, WA. 98026      (425) 775-3104



**Minerva Bryant, school teacher at Fort Cascades, W.T., in 1867. Minerva was born in Java New York on April 14, 1844. She married William McCready (no date available); and had two children, Thomas and Claude (no birth-dates available).**

**Minerva died November 11, 1912 (location unknown).  
(Photo by C. E. "Charles" Watkins.)**



**Minerva Bryant McCready, wife of William McCready.  
Minerva taught school at Fort Cascades, W.T. in 1867**



**William McCready, husband of Minerva Bryant McCready**



**Claude McCready, son of William and Minerva Bryant McCready**



**Minerva Bryant, school teacher at Fort Cascades, W.T., in 1867. Minerva was born in Java, New York on April 14, 1844. She married William McCready (no date available); and had two children, Thomas and Claude (no birthdates available). Minerva died November 11, 1912 (location unknown).**



**Thomas McCready, son of William and Minerva Bryant McCready**