

III. Henry D. Gardiner (and Gardiner, OR)

A marker sits beside U.S. 101 in Gardiner, OR. The marker mentions that, at that spot on the Umpqua River, there had been a shipwreck in 1850. The town got its start, thereby. Cargo and the ship were salvaged and used for early buildings. The ship was owned by a Boston merchant, name of Mr. Gardiner. The marker provides other facts about the area. In 2014, Gardner Research received a query: who was Mr. Gardiner and what do we know about him? The article addresses that query.

Introduction

In 1850, there was a shipwreck along the Oregon coast involving a vessel that had come up from California with a load of cargo meant to be sold to prospectors and miners. The ship that wrecked was said to be owned by a Mr. Gardiner.³² At the point of the shipwreck, a town emerged which was named Gardiner, OR. Early dwellings of the town were constructed from the cargo which was salvaged or from pieces of the ship itself. Some of those on the ship remained in the area. A marker on U.S. Highway 101 commemorates the shipwreck and provides some historical notes about the town of Gardiner. This article looks at details about the ship that was lost and provides information about the unknown Mr. Gardiner.

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Full article is available in print version.

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