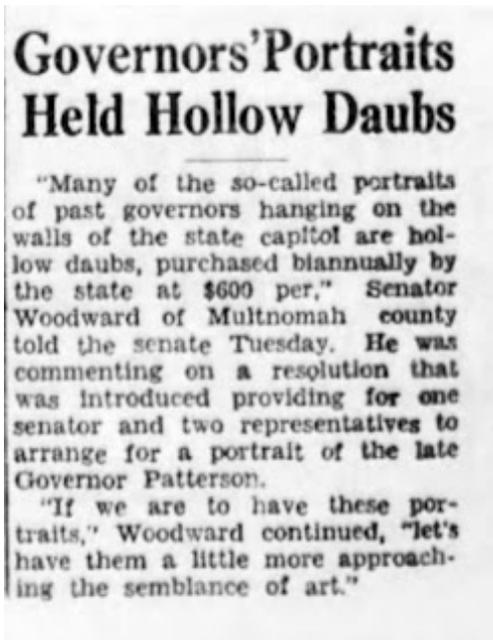


It seems like the legislature generally covered the cost of commissioning the early portraits (before Julius Meier) There are many articles that mention the legislature authorized the spending of \$600 to an artist for a painting. At least one article mentions that State Senator Woodward felt that if the legislature spent some money they might get some paintings that 'resemblance of art'. Google told me that Daubs was not a descriptor you would use to say something looked fine.



Due to the remarks by the senator, The Oregonian reported that the State Senate provided a bill that would ask each President of the various universities, colleges and the Portland Art Institute to name a member of their Art Department to "obtain a portrait of Governor [I.L.] Patterson". Seems like they wanted a committee to decide on a portrait and the \$600 commission.

At least two non-governors was found in the capitol gallery back at the turn of the 20th century. In 1909, the Oregon Legislature accepted the gift of a portrait by President Grant from John W. Cook of Portland. The other was President George Washington. His portrait hung in one of the legislative chambers.

Governor Martin Pleased...

In 1936 there was some movement to commission the WPA to paint replacement portraits of the ones lost in the capitol fire, but it did not go through apparently. This pleased the governor enough that it got mentioned in the paper. Governor Martin was no fan of FDR and many of the New Deal programs, so I'm not surprised to learn this. The Bend Bulletin, 2/17/1936

Governor Norbald's portrait

According to an article in the Corvallis-Gazette Times it was painted by a NW artist known as Joe Knowles. [The Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum](#) has a short page about him and describes him as one of the areas " prominent eccentric"

Appointed governor of Oregon territory by President James K. Polk, in 1846. Also appointed governor by President Franklin Pierce.

Governor John C. Gaines, third territorial governor of Oregon, 1846 to 1849. Appointed governor of Oregon territory by President Zachary Taylor.

Governor George L. Curry, the 18th and also the seventh territorial governor of Oregon territory, and the last under territorial government, 1860 to 1869. Was secretary of the territory and became governor by virtue of his office on the resignation of Governor Lane, in 1860; was also secretary of the territory and became governor by virtue of his office on the resignation of Governor Davis in 1866. Also appointed governor of the territory by President Franklin Pierce.

Governor John W. Davis, sixth territorial governor of Oregon, 1861 to 1864. Appointed governor of Oregon by President Franklin Pierce in place of Governor Joseph Lane, who resigned to become a delegate to Congress.

Governor John W. Whitaker, first governor of the state of Oregon, 1859 to 1860. Democrat, elected by the people at the general election in 1859.

Governor William C. Willde, second governor of the state of Oregon, 1861 to 1862. Republican, elected by the people at the general election in 1861.

Governor George L. Woods, third governor of the state of Oregon, 1862 to 1863. Republican, elected by the people at the general election in 1862.

Governor Lafayette P. Brewer, fourth governor of the state of Oregon, 1863 to 1864. Democrat, elected by the people at the general election in 1863, re-elected in 1864; resigned in 1865, having been elected United States senator from Oregon.

Governor Stephen F. Chadwick, fifth governor of the state of Oregon, 1865 to 1866. Democrat, elected secretary of state at the general election in 1865, and became governor February 1, 1867, by the resignation of Governor Brewer.

Governor W. W. Chapman, sixth governor of the state of Oregon, 1866 to 1867. Democrat, elected by the people at the general election in 1866.

Governor S. F. Woods, seventh governor of the state of Oregon, 1867 to 1868. Republican, elected by the people at the general election in 1867.

Governor Hyacinth Pendergast, eighth governor of the state of Oregon, 1868 to 1869. Democrat, elected by the people at the general election held in 1868, and re-elected at the general election held in 1869.

Governor William F. Lord, ninth governor of the state of Oregon, 1869 to 1870. General term expires in 1870. Republican, elected by the people at the general election held in 1869.

The remains of Dr. John McLoughlin, which hang in the hall of the state of the senate, has already been provided with a case bearing his name. While this great pioneer was never governor of Oregon, he earned a wide influence in the country which now bears his name, and his name will go down in history as one of the founders of this great commonwealth.

Early Portraits by William Cogswell

According to an 1887 article in the Weekly Oregon Statesman, the state "commissioned" him to paint many of the early portraits. His Wikipedia entry explains that Cogswell has works hanging in the White House (President Lincoln) and the Congress (President Grant) and many institutions and museums across the country.

Walter Pierce portrait

According to articles from 1929, it was commissioned for \$600 by artist Sidney Bell (Sydney Bell?)The Oregonian would report that that the final cost would be \$1000. Not sure which of the two articles is correct.

Governor Chamberlain portrait

Portland artist Richard Max Meyer was commissioned to paint Governor Chamberlain. He was also commissioned by the legislature to clean, restore and touch up all the other portraits as they had become dirty over the years. (Statesman Journal: 2/28/1905)



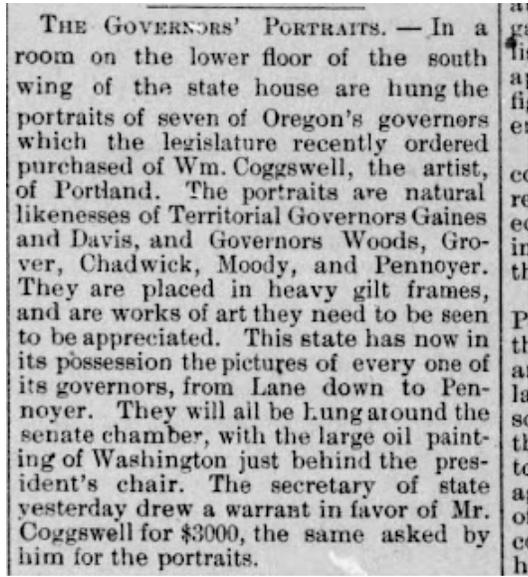
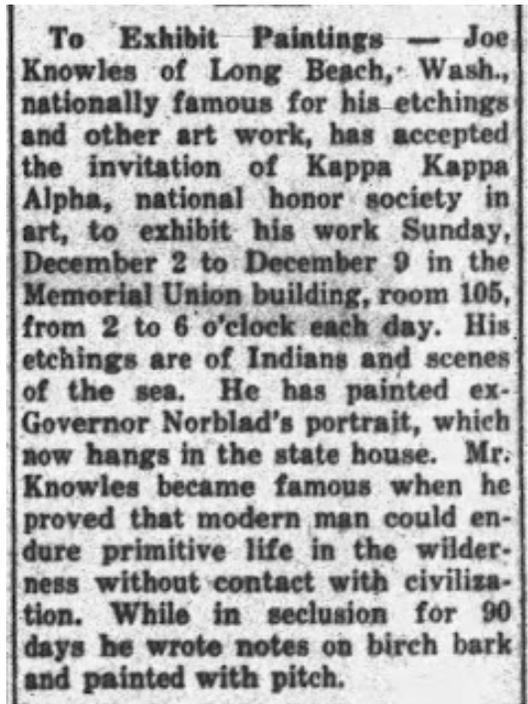
Governor Olcott's portrait

From a short blurb in the Oregonian in July of 1920 it states that an artist named Fredrick Webster may have been commissioned to paint Governor Olcott. Another article from 1923 mentions that the legislature approved the \$600 to purchase a painting.

Governor West's portrait

Cost the legislature \$500 and was painted by John Trullinger

It caused quite the response from lovers and critics when it was unveiled at the capitol. The Statesman Journal covered reactions from those gathered. Apparently, West's hand rests on a book titled 'The Copperfield War', and a picture of Abigail Scott Duniway is in the background showing her signing the Suffrage bill. There were interesting choices made for his physical appearance and coloring. It would seem like the portrait of West hanging up in the Oregon Capitol currently is not the one commissioned and painted by John Trullinger...unless later the legislature decided to become art critics and commission another one.



As for the missing portrait of Governor James Withycombe, here is what we know based on news articles shortly after he died.

The Oregon Legislature appropriated \$600 for the portrait to Sidney Bell, the same artist that I mentioned earlier in the post.

The portrait was finished by February 1921, when an article in the Statesman Journal 'Society News of the Week' mentions that the family "recognize in the work not only a perfect likeness, but an embodiment of personality, and a remarkable canvas from an artistic point of view as well".

The article even describes a little bit of the actual portrait (this may help future sleuths) "The figure is shown in a sitting posture, the graceful, easy treatment of the hands, and the character-revelation in the face being nothing but remarkable".

I'm sorry I haven't been able to find more, I'm sure there are some places out there worth looking. Things pop up everywhere. The desk of Governor Wm. Wallace Thayer for instance is in a room at the Tillamook Pioneer Museum.

You can read more about the Oregon Capitol Foundation and their effort to find more info here:
<https://oregoncapitolfoundation.org/governors-portraits/>

The most likely fate of many of the portraits made before Julius Meier? It is a strong possibility that many of them were destroyed when the Oregon Capitol building burned to the ground in 1935.

Oregon APIC members are of course encouraged to help in the search for more information.

Oregon APIC Chapter: The Missing Oregon Portraits
<https://oregonapic.blogspot.com/2021/11/the-missing-oregon-portraits.html>

