

## Preacher Jason Fry, Rainier, Oregon, 1850s

Pioneer History  
To about 1900  
Churches of Christ & Christian Churches  
In the Pacific Northwest  
Columbia County, Oregon

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<http://ncbible.org/nwh/orhistde.html>

### Rainier

Rainier, Oregon was and still is a small town across the Columbia River from Longview, Washington. An early site of Gospel preaching, it is located in Columbia County. By 1857 two preachers, James R. Fisher, accompanied by Lewis Casteel (1813-1867) reached Rainier to find there "a small church organized a little time before by Brother Huntington."

School records show that a segment of the Huntington family lived at Rainier in 1857-1858 so their children could attend the local school. It is reasonable to think the church meetings were in the school house as no record exists of a separate church building in Rainier.

The William Huntington family is discussed in more detail in connection with [Castle Rock, Washington](#).

William and Eliza Jane Huntington's daughter Annette May was married to budding preacher Jason Fry here in Rainier in 1858. The wedding took place before Justice of the Peace Gilbreth.

Fry had come overland in 1849 but did not reach Rainier until 1851. Jason and his brother John intended to log in the area, but found a market for supplying beef to the Oak Point Mill on the Washington side of the Columbia.



Jason Fry

Jason had a land claim at Coffin Rock, next to the present Trojan Nuclear Plant. However, he and Annette moved to Beaver Valley, about 3.5 miles from the Lewis and Clark Bridge, in 1861. Jason and brother John owned a sawmill there for several years.

Eventually, they moved to Grays Harbor County in Washington State where he spent the rest of his life. Fry spent many years preaching in the Johns River area and is buried in Grays Harbor County at the tiny *Johns River Cemetery*.

[Johns River Cemetery listing](#). More about the life of Jason Fry can be gleaned from the book *Our People* by Edwin Van Syckle and printed by Valley Press, Puyallup, WA.