

Gentner's Fritillaria

Dr. Louis Gentner / Mrs. Lillian Gentner

The rare Gentner's Fritillaria is found only in isolated populations in Southern Oregon. The largest concentration of this showy red bell lily is found in the woodlands immediately surrounding the Jacksonville Cemetery.

In 1944, Dr. Louis Gentner, an entomologist and assistant superintendent of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station in Medford, reported what appeared to him an undescribed species of Fritillaria.

The previous year one of his daughters, Laura, had collected for their garden a plant that she had assumed was the fairly common *Fritillaria recurva* or red bell. But when her plant flowered, it was noticeably different from the other lilies growing along side. In the late 1940s Dr. Helen Gilkey, Oregon State University Botany Department curator, studied this "new" fritillary and determined that the flower was indeed a distinct species. In 1951 Dr. Gilkey officially described this rare plant, new to Western science, and named it in honor of the Gentner family who had discovered it.

Louis Gustave GENTNER b. February 29, 1892, d. July 20, 1980

Lillian Evelyn PIERCE GENTNER b. September 4, 1892, d. May 20, 1967