Boddy Family

William and Louisa Boddy, along with two sons, a daughter and a son-in-law, immigrated from Australia to the Klamath valley in 1872 to establish a cattle ranch. Unfortunately, within a few months of arriving, their family was a casualty of the Modoc War.

In 1872, the Bureau of Indian Affairs ordered the Modoc people be moved into settlements with the Klamath and Yahooskin tribes. The tribes were historic enemies, and the re-settlement sparked a war between the Native Americans and settlers.

A bloodied wagon heading home without a driver was the first sign of trouble for the Boddy family. When Louisa and Katherine were approached by a group of six Native Americans asking if there were men in the house, Louisa realized she needed to take her daughter and run.

When Louisa and Katherine returned a week later, they learned all the men had been killed. Reportedly, the two women were the only survivors of the Modoc Indian Uprising, and Louisa Boddy was the only woman to receive damages from the US government for her losses. A claim for $6,180 was processed through an Act of Congress and paid by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In 1881, Louisa had her family exhumed and moved to the Jacksonville Cemetery, and she arranged for an elaborate marker to be made by Edward McGrath, a San Francisco marble carver. Both Louisa and daughter Katherine remarried and moved away. When Louisa died in 1904, Katherine brought her mother to Jacksonville to be buried with the rest of her family. Curiously, there was no headstone for Louisa. The Friends of Jacksonville's Historic Cemetery had a marker made and placed at her gravesite.