

# James Napper Tandy (JNT) Miller

Born in 1826 in Hardin County, Kentucky, James traveled with his family to Oregon's Willamette Valley in a company of 80 covered wagons via Meek's Cutoff from the Oregon Trail. As a young man, James led a group of men south to the California gold fields where they had considerable success but, on the return trip, lost \$20,000 of their money while crossing a swollen stream.

James married Betsy Ann Awbrey, whose family had come west from Iowa. The Millers resided on Sauvies Island, north of Portland, before moving to Jacksonville in 1854. They took a 312-acre Donation Land Claim, 32 acres of which they set aside for what is now the Jacksonville Cemetery. James farmed, planted an orchard and vineyard, and pastured milk cows and other stock. The Millers lost four of their eight children to illness in 1870, three dying within days of each other.

James fought in the 1850s Indian Wars. He was at the Battle of the Table Rocks and was part of the group that rescued Captain Smith at Big Bend. He also acted as an interpreter for Indian Agent Skinner at the Big Bar peace conference on the Rogue River.

James served in the lower house of the Oregon State Legislature in 1862 and was a state senator from 1866-1870. During the Modoc War, Governor Grover appointed James to the position of Commissary General of Volunteers with the rank of Colonel.

James was the first president of the Southern Oregon District Agricultural Society. A staunch Democrat, James started the Democratic Times newspaper in 1871 and served as its publisher and proprietor through mid-1872.

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