

2008

STORIES FROM MEET THE PIONEERS

Living History Tours presented in Jacksonville's Pioneer Cemetery

2008 – Year Three

Captain Milo Caton

Isaac and Lucinda Merriman Constant

Judge Silas and Mary McGhee Day

Herman and Augusta Englebrecht Von Helms

David and Ann Sophia Hoffman Linn and their son Fletcher Linn

Jane Mason McCully and her daughter Isadora (Issie) McCully

Gabriel and Mary Hatfield Plymale

Thomas Givings and Lucinda Wallace Reames

Dr. James W. Robinson and Matilda (Tillie) Miller Robinson

MEET THE PIONEERS

2008



Character

Captain Milo Caton
Isaac Constant
Lucinda Constant
Mary Day
Judge Silas Day
Herman Helms
Augusta Helms
David Linn
David Linn
Fletcher Linn
Sophia Linn

Player

Arild Barrett
Steve Carlson*
Mary Ann Carlson*
Anne Peugh*
Dan Winterburn*
Larry Smith*
Marcy McQuillan*
Wes Hartman
Josh Phoenix*
Jake Hartman
Sandy Phoenix*

Character

Gabriel Plymale
Mary Plymale
Isadora McCully
Jane McCully
Lucinda Reames
General Thomas Reames
Dr. James Robinson
Tillie Robinson

Player

Paul Becker*
Margaret LaPlante
Constance Jesser*
Carolyn Kingsnorth*
Ann Wilton*
Steve Casaleggio*
Robert Hight*
Peggy Peffley*

Character/Player in Shuttle Boarding Area: Robert Heltberg as Peter Britt (not in picture); Tony Hess as Sexton Robert Dunlap*; Teri Gieg as Madame Jeanne Holt.*

*Indicates Player in picture.

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Captain Milo Caton

Milo was born in Cayuga County, New York on January 27, 1826. He served during the Mexican War and later in Ohio he met and married Sibyl A. Freeman on November 17, 1847. Five children would be born from the marriage, two sons and three daughters.

A few years after they married, they moved to Michigan and in 1852 Milo left his family behind and went to Oregon seeking his fortune in the gold fields. He settled in Foot's Creek near Gold Hill. Pretty soon he found himself involved in the Rogue River Indian Wars as trouble began between the Indians and the white settlers. With his past military experience in the Mexican War, Milo was considered a perfect candidate to help settle things down and return peace to the Valley.

Afterwards he returned to the East and his family. That didn't last for too long as when the Civil War broke out, Milo felt it necessary to do his duty to preserve the Union and volunteered to serve. He was chosen Captain to command Company H in the 21st Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Despite making it through the first two years of the war without a scratch, Milo's luck ran out. At the Battle of Chickamauga, he was captured and taken prisoner and held captive at the infamous Libby Prison in the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. Captain Caton was released in a prisoner exchange and returned to his unit only to be captured again and sent to another Confederate Prisoner of War Camp.

After being released from the camp and his Civil War duty just one month prior, Milo told his wife and family that he wanted to return to Oregon. Like so many Veterans of that terrible war, they wanted to get as far away from it as possible. So, the family packed up and headed west.

The family settled in Jacksonville where Milo became engaged in business. He also served as Deputy Sheriff during the administration of William Bybee from 1878 to 1881. He was a member of the G.A.R. post and a long-term member of the Masonic Lodge.

Sybil passed away on September 16, 1896, in Jacksonville. Milo died on November 6, 1913, in Phoenix, Oregon at the home of his daughter Isabella Caton Furry.

Captain Milo Caton and Sybil Freeman Caton are both buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block, 502 Plots 2 and 3.

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Isaac and Lucinda Merriman Constant

Isaac Constant was born on April 5, 1809, in Clark County, Kentucky. The woman that would become his wife, Lucinda Merriman, was born in Scott County, Kentucky on February 12, 1813.

They married on February 14, 1833, in Kentucky but soon bought land in Sangamon County near Springfield, Illinois. Isaac farmed the land and soon was very prosperous. Isaac and Lucinda's seven children were all born on the farm. Two who would die before their first birthday, Josephine in 1845, and Henry Francis in 1846.

Reportedly a friend and neighbor of Abraham Lincoln, he joined as a soldier in Lincoln's company during the Indian Wars in that section of the state Illinois.

In part due to poor health, along with a sense of adventure, Isaac and two friends departed Illinois and crossed the plains and arrived in the Oregon Territory in the fall of 1849. Isaac was quite taken with this new land and was anxious to return to Illinois and bring his family west. He returned home after being gone for approximately two years.

The Constant family were not only happy to have Isaac home but were delighted to see how well he looked. He shared his stories and tales of how wonderful Oregon was and the opportunities it offered. He told Lucinda that he wanted to sell the farm and move the family to Oregon. Lucinda offered that if they wait a year and if his health began to fail, we will go and never say a word.

On March 2, 1852, the family, Isaac, Lucinda and their four daughters and one son departed Springfield on their way west to Oregon. Joining them was Lucinda's brother William Merriman and his wife Mary, who was very sick when the trip began, and their two small children, a boy and a girl.

Isaac Constant was the captain of the train. His outfit was well-planned out, consisting of five large, covered wagons, built strongly and when encountering high water in the rivers, the wagon beds were constructed so they could be raised two feet or more. The wagon beds were also made to be watertight. For the convenience of his immediate family, he had ordered a four-seated "hack" that was drawn by four mules. He even had a wagon that the family used just for eating.

Sadly, early into the trip Lucinda's sister-in-law, her brother's wife Mary died leaving two small children. Lucinda, with the help of her older daughters, would care for the children. Mary and William's young son would die soon after the train reached Oregon. The child may have been poisoned after drinking some milk that came from a cow that had eaten wild parsnips near Goose Lake.

After facing the elements and hardships that the pioneers faced on their way west, the Constant family arrived in Jacksonville, Oregon in September of 1852. They took up a Donation Land Claim just outside of Jacksonville, what is now Central Point, where Isaac built the family a larger home replacing the small cabin. He had his seed potatoes planted shortly after arriving in the valley. After several attempts he finally succeeded in planting an orchard consisting of several varieties of apples, pears, and plums. His potatoes flourished and the Constants planted oats, wheat, and a large garden. They also raised horses, Longhorn Durham cattle, bees and hogs. Isaac also introduced poultry to the area when he returned from a trip to Oregon City with a rooster and several hens.

At one point Isaac became very concerned that the Indians had enough to eat as much of their food source had been destroyed by the white settlers. He went to the Indian Village and shared with the Chief where the potatoes were stored and told him his people could have all the potatoes they wanted. The Chief assured Isaac that no harm would come to his family for his act of kindness. True to his word, during the Rogue Indian Wars the Constants remained safe in their home. Another time Isaac was offered twenty dollars a pound for some flour but turned it down. He then shared it with his neighbors saying that why would I sell something to strangers when our friends are in need?

The Constants later built a large home consisting of five bedrooms, several with closets, relatively a new idea at the time, a parlor, large kitchen with pantry, a cellar and front and back porches. Isaac helped lay out the Rogue River and John Day Wagon Roads in 1863 and 1864. He also connected the Rogue River and Fort Klamath roads bearing the largest part of the expense himself. He was public spirited and generous to all.

Isaac and Lucinda were well respected by all who knew them. They accomplished so much together and helped to make life better for their family and for all who followed and settled in Southern Oregon.

Isaac passed away on January 31, 1890, at the age of eighty. The year 1890 was also the year of the Great Flood in the Rogue Valley and Isaac's funeral had to be delayed until the roads could be opened between Central Point and Jacksonville.

Lucinda passed away just six weeks later on March 7, 1890, at the age of seventy-six.

Both rest side by side in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery, Block 248, Plots 1 and 2.

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Judge Silas Day and Mary Elizabeth McGee Day

Silas Day was born of Irish ancestry in Anne Arundel County, Maryland on April 3, 1826. He was four years old when his family moved to Baltimore in 1830. His early education was secured in private schools conducted by both his father and uncle.

In 1846 Silas enlisted in Company E, Second United States Infantry during the Mexican War. In 1849 he was stationed at Sugarville, California and then to Camp Far West. In 1850 he was granted furlough from the military and went in search of gold in California. In 1851 Silas made his way to Oregon but only stayed a short time before returning to California where he once again mined and engaged in brick manufacturing. Silas decided to return to Oregon and make it his home and on July 13, 1853, located a Donation Land Claim on Little Butte Creek. This time he would remain there for the rest of his life.

It was while Silas was living on his claim that the Indian War of 1855 broke out. He enlisted and was elected orderly sergeant in Captain Miles Alcorn's Company G, Ninth Regiment, of the Oregon Militia. Later with the resignation of Lieutenant James Matney, Silas was promoted to a Lieutenancy in the company. On June 13, 1856, he, along with the rest of the company, was mustered out of service. Silas returned to mining and his Donation Land Claim.

In 1870 he was introduced to public life when he was elected County Clerk of Jackson County. In 1872 a Board of Commissioners was appointed to lay out and construct a wagon road through Jackson, Grant and Baker counties. It was known as the Southern Oregon Wagon Road and extended 343 ¼ miles in length. At the organizational meeting of the board Silas was elected chairman and continued in that role until July 1874, when its labors were completed, and the board was dissolved. In 1874 he was elected County Judge and then reelected in 1878. His fellow citizens had faith and great respect for Silas.

On May 22, 1871, Silas married Mary Elizabeth McGee in Portland, Oregon. Following their wedding they traveled by stagecoach to Jacksonville where they would settle and start their married life. Four children would be born to them, two sons and two daughters.

Mary McGee was born in Boone County, Missouri on November 22, 1841, and came to Oregon with her mother and two younger brothers in 1853. Her father John Wesley McGee had made the overland crossing in 1851, first settling in Yreka before arriving in the Rogue Valley in 1852. He was a very religious man and the Indians had great respect for him. They called him the "Bible Man." He settled in on a Donation Land Claim near the present day Bybee Bridge and later moved to the Willamette Valley. He sent word for his wife and children to join him.

As they were traveling on their own, they took the long and very difficult journey around the Horn. Mary's mother took ill and soon passed away and was buried at sea. Mary who was twelve years old at the time took charge of her two younger brothers. After arriving in Oregon and meeting up with their father they were placed in Grandmother Brown's Boarding School in Forest Grove.

Mary was a good student and went on to attend Willamette University and was a member of the first graduating class. She taught school in the John Day District and later taught at the Portland Academy. Following that assignment, she became one of the first teachers at Albany College.

Upon retiring from his political life Silas sold and managed real estate and sold insurance. He also served as a notary public. Silas was very active in community affairs and was elected Grand Master of the Odd Fellows in 1868. He served on both the Jacksonville City Council and School Board.

The Days were a well-respected and deeply religious family. They were founding members of the Methodist Church and members of the Southern Oregon Pioneers Association.

Silas Day passed away on December 30, 1909, and Mary Elizabeth McGee Day died on August 26, 1925. Both are buried in the Odd Fellow (IOOF) Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 396, Plots 2 and 5.

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Herman Von Helms and Augusta Englebrecht Helms

Herman was born on August 18, 1832, in Holstein, Germany. At the age of twenty-one he emigrated to America and San Francisco. For the next four years he followed various gold strikes heading north and in 1856 he arrived in Jacksonville, Oregon.

Tired of the hard work of gold mining Herman looked around for other business opportunities. With so many miners, most if not all being single, a bakery soon came to mind as these men needed somewhere to buy bread and other baked goods. In 1858 Herman went into partnership with John Wintjen, and they opened a bakery in a small wooden building on Oregon Street. In addition to the bakery, they provided space for a butcher shop, groceries and supplies. As the business was a success Herman built a cabin up the street from the bakery also on South Oregon Street. Nearing the age of thirty Herman was now in the market for a bride, preferably a German bride.

In 1860 Herman and his partner John Wintjen purchased the property on the north side of their bakery and had a large, arcaded brick building constructed on the site. They called their new building and business the Table Rock Billiard Saloon. It was not your average saloon of the day, no riff raff hanging about. It was an immediate success and quickly became a social and political headquarters of Southern Oregon. Reportedly court decisions were made there, trials were held there, and financial deals were transacted there as well. The pool table that helped furnish the saloon had been shipped around the Horn then brought to Jacksonville from Eureka, California by pack mules. The saloon also offered a superior free-lunch counter. Another unique feature was called The Cabinet, a small museum which contained a valuable collection of pioneer relics.

Augusta Englebrecht was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1837 and came to America with her parents in pursuit of opportunity and perhaps gold. They settled in Yreka, California in 1861. There were many other German immigrants that had settled in the area and Augusta's parents heard of one such immigrant, Herman Von Helms of Jacksonville who by the way, was looking for a German wife. Soon arrangements were made, and Augusta and her parents travelled from Yreka to Jacksonville to meet Mr. Von Helms. All went well and the following day, March 20, 1862, Herman and Augusta were married.

The success of the new business allowed the Helms to build a large new home on the site of their former cabin. Work began in 1878 and they kept the cabin as the kitchen and pantry while adding a large two-story addition built onto the front. It was described at the time as "one of the most elegant residences in town". With a large family of eight children, they needed the room. Herman and Augusta lost their youngest daughter Herminne, known as Minnie, on December 6, 1868, at the age of two from Typhoid Fever. The road up to the cemetery was impassible due to winter weather so Minnie was buried on the family property. Later when work began on the expansion of the home Minnie's remains were reburied in the Helms family block in the Jacksonville Cemetery.

Tragedies continued as the Helms lost daughters Bertha and Matilda to Typhoid Fever in July of 1889, Bertha on July 13, at the age of sixteen and Matilda on July 26, at the age of eighteen. Another daughter Emma was murdered by her brother-in-law on January 6, 1907.

Herman was a member of the Masonic Lodge as well as the Odd Fellows, both fraternal organizations in Jacksonville. After running the Table Rock Billiard Saloon for over forty years Herman turned the business over to his son Edward.

Herman Von Helms passed away on June 21, 1899. Augusta Englebrecht Helms died on February 25, 1911. They are buried in the Odd Fellow (IOOF) Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 403, Plots 2 and 3.

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David Linn, Ann Sophia Hoffman Linn and their son Fletcher Linn

David Linn was born on October 28, 1826, in Cambridge, Guernsey County, Ohio. He was the oldest boy of a family of eight children born on his parents' farm. He learned the carpenters trade as a boy and was self-supporting by the age of fourteen.

At the age of twenty-five David headed west to try his luck in the gold fields. Not certain how he would fare, he brought along most of his carpentry tools just in case. He crossed the plains in a wagon pulled by oxen arriving in Oregon in 1851. Passing through the Dalles, then Oregon City and finally Portland where he purchased a sturdy draft horse and headed to the gold fields in the Yreka, California area. Having realized considerable success on his claims in Humbug Creek and Yreka Flats David heard of gold being discovered near Daisy Creek in Southern Oregon and headed in that direction.

David settled in Jacksonville in 1853 and once again started mining. He soon determined that there were far more gold miners in the area than there was gold, so he set up shop with the carpentry tools that he brought with him from Ohio.

He started with constructing cradles and sluice boxes for prospectors as they were required in great volumes. David also constructed sheds and cabins for the throngs arriving in the boom town of Jacksonville. He began to build houses and making simple furniture to furnish them with. Those making the journey west disposed of most of their possessions and carried only the bare necessities when they traveled across the prairie by wagon or around the horn on a schooner. Following their arrival, they were eager to purchase chairs, tables and beds. A sideline, and a very necessary one, was the construction of coffins. They were made of pine, covered with black velvet and trimmed with drop handles, thumb screws and plates. The inside was nicely lined with white muslin and properly padded. David charged \$20 for a child's coffin and not over \$50 for an adult. Included in the price was rough box to be used as an outside cover for the casket. It took about six to eight hours of work to make and trim out a coffin, many of which were made at night, in order to be ready for those people who traveled some distance to purchase them. David Linn's ad in the local newspaper advertised that coffins were available for purchase day or night. Most likely the majority of those buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery in the 19th century were interned in coffins made by the Linn factory. The factory was located on the corner of California and Oregon Streets, on property that David purchased in 1854.

In 1856 David made a brief return trip to Ohio where he purchased a small steam engine. He had it loaded on a sailing ship in the New York harbor where it was transported around Cape Horn to San Francisco. From there it was transferred to another boat and shipped to Winchester Bay at the mouth of the Umpqua River. Next it was hauled by ox-team to Jacksonville arriving two years after David had purchased it. Reportedly it was the first steam sawmill in Oregon.

On August 30, 1860, David Linn married Anna Sophia Hoffman. Anna Sophia was born on March 24, 1842, in Covington, Indiana and came west with her parents and five sisters in 1853. The Hoffmans were one of the very first families in Jacksonville. David and Anna Sophia would go on to have seven children, three daughters and four sons. They lived on a ranch just outside of Jacksonville until David built a beautiful large home for his family in 1883 on the corner of Oregon and E Streets.

In 1863 David received a contract from the Government and hauled his sawmill across the mountains to Klamath County where he constructed Fort Klamath, including homes for the officers to live in.

In 1869 David Linn, his wife and children, along with several other prominent Jacksonville residents, visited Crater Lake, known at the time as Blue Lake or Lake Majesty. David had constructed a boat that was in sections that the party took with them. It was put together on the lake shore and David and several of the men in the party used the boat to go to the island and climb the crater.

David Linn was now a successful businessman, and he and his family were well respected and an important part of Jacksonville's early social life. The Linns were known for the wonderful parties they hosted.

David served as County Treasurer for fourteen years making annual trips to the State Treasurer in Salem carrying as much as \$14,000 in currency and gold. He maintained a ranch of 160 acres where he had apple orchards. He served as President and Business Manager of the Jacksonville Milling and Mining Company. His political life included being Mayor of Jacksonville, City Councilman and School Director. After his factory was destroyed by a fire in 1888, he spent most of his time on his large ranch just outside of Jacksonville.

Anne Sophia passed away on August 20, 1907, at the age of sixty-five, and David passed away five years later on May 16, 1912, at the age of eighty-five.

The Linn's son Fletcher was born on November 10, 1866, in Jacksonville, Oregon. He attended Jacksonville High School, the first public high school in the state. During the summers he and his brothers would cut timber and haul it to their father's sawmill. In 1890 he graduated from the University of Oregon where he was senior class president to a class of fifteen students, the largest to graduate at that time.

On February 3, 1892, he married Louise Sawyers who was born on March 21, 1871, and grew up in Sioux City, Iowa. She was a music teacher at the University of Oregon.

Fletcher followed in his father's footsteps entering the furniture business first in Eugene. In 1898 he became the president of the Oregon Furniture Manufacturing Company in Portland. In 1902 he erected a \$200,000 factory that employed some three hundred men. Fletcher would go on to become a leading industrial figure heading up a number of Oregon companies. In addition, he served on a number of boards and was a trustee to several colleges and organizations. In his later years he devoted his efforts to development of a pictorial record of sixty pioneer homes in Jacksonville. He was also engaged in writing a series of thumbnail sketches of the pioneer families of Jackson County.

Fletcher's wife Louise died on September 11, 1950, and Fletcher on December 16, 1953, in Portland, Oregon. Both are buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery, along with Anne Sophia and David Linn, in the Masonic Section in Block 410, in Plots 4, 5, 9 and 10.

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Jane Mason McCully and her daughter Isadora "Issie" McCully

Jane Mason was born in the village of Alloway in Kyle, a district in the county of Ayrshire, Scotland on March 31, 1824. In 1831 the Mason family left Scotland behind and sailed for a new life in America. They arrived in New York staying briefly before moving to Indiana and then to Iowa where they settled.

Jane, who had received a good education, became a teacher and taught school while living in Iowa. It was around that time that she met John Wilmer McCully a young doctor who was practicing medicine in association with an established doctor. On June 28, 1848, Jane Mason became the bride of Dr. John Wilmer McCully. Their lives were full of promise, they were young, Jane was twenty-four and John twenty-seven, both were well educated, and they shared similar ambitions.

In 1851 the McCullys, caught up in the romance of the west and lure of gold, joined a wagon train and started across the plains and arrived in Salem that fall. With winter fast approaching and their money and supplies exhausted they decided to stay put, at least until the spring. John being in unfamiliar territory and surrounded by strangers was quite uncomfortable. He was reluctant to open an office and establish a practice, and he was unqualified and unsuited for any type of physical labor.

It was Jane who took the lead and, with her teaching background, took a position as an instructor in a private school. Over the winter she managed to not only support them, but she was also able to put a little savings away.

In the spring of 1852, Jane purchased a new team of horses and a wagon, packed up their possessions, and headed for Southern Oregon and Table Rock City where gold had recently been discovered. John McCully, being nudged along by Jane, followed her lead.

On their arrival they found nearly every foot of the Rich Gulch staked out by miners. There was nothing but tents, shacks, a trading post and a number of saloons. Jane was the second respectable female to arrive in Table Rock City. John hung out his shingle, but there was little demand for a doctor. The McCullys needed a source of income and, since there was no need for a teacher at the time, Jane began baking bread, cakes and pies that she quickly sold for a dollar each. Her baked goods were in constant demand and, almost overnight, Jane had a thriving business right in her own kitchen.

In the spring of 1853, larger numbers of settlers were arriving in the valley with many buildings being constructed and businesses prospered. Finally, John's medical services were in demand and his medical practice grew. On August 27, 1853, their first child, a son, James Cluggage McCully, was born being the first white male to be born in the new city.

John purchased land in Jacksonville, then became a part owner of a saloon and a dairy. Borrowing money against his land holdings, John took on the task of building the most costly structure in Jacksonville, a two story building on the corner of Main and South Oregon Streets which today is known as the Odd Fellows Hall.

On February 7, 1857, their first daughter, Mary Belle McCully, was born. That same year John was elected to the Territorial Legislature and was the only Republican from Jackson County. Now feeling like a man of stature, head of an admirable family with impressive real estate holdings and a member of the legislature, John started thinking of building a fine new home for his family.

Despite a number of liens already on his two-story brick McCully Building, John went ahead with his plans for a grand new house, paying creditors with promises. Shortly before the house was completed a third child, Isadora (Issie) McCully was born on December 16, 1859. The McCullys moved into their new home and were now faced with not only the liens on the McCully Building but on the new home, along with threats to take their land and attach John's business interests.

Early in 1860, and under the cover of darkness, John McCully took the stage coach out of town leaving Jane, his three children and near \$8,000 in debts! Jane would never see or hear from John McCully again and forbid the children from ever mentioning his name in her presence.

Jane immediately went to work on trying to find a way to save the house so she and the children would not become homeless. Jane was able to use the interest from some of John's investments, got rid of others, and rented the house out as a boarding house. She went back to baking and was able to open a much-needed school in 1862. At the end of the first year the school was so successful, and with a growing demand, she was able to move the classroom from the cabin back into the main McCully home.

Jane McCully not only managed to save the family home, but she was able to settle all the outstanding debt left to her by John McCully. Jane was able to provide for herself and her children quite nicely and was one of the most respected women in Jacksonville.

Jane Mason McCully, one of the earliest pioneers to Jackson County, and a resident of Jacksonville since 1852, died on June 22, 1899, at the age of seventy-five.

Isadora (Issie) McCully

Issie was born shortly before her father John McCully abandoned his family. She attended and graduated from Willamette University as did her brother James and sister Molly. Issie was a very good student but seemed to have no particular calling. She missed her home, Jacksonville and her friends and was grateful to return home after school.

Reportedly there was a young man in her life, and they had thought they would one day marry, but there was no future for them as a couple. When their relationship ended, Issie's personality changed from a happy, spirited young lady with excitement for life and love to an overweight, unfulfilled spinster. She seemed to have no purpose in life. That changed when in 1884 her sister Molly died following the birth of her son George H. Merritt several months earlier.

It seems that all in the family agreed that the motherless little boy could be better raised by his aunt than by his unhappy and widowed father. Issie adored George and took care of his every need. When he went off to attend the University of Oregon in Eugene, his Aunt Issie went along to provide a home for him. She stayed in Eugene for the six years that he attended law school at the university.

George went off to Boston after that and was briefly married to Grace Wick, a vivacious actress and feminine activist of the time.

Issie returned to the family home in Jacksonville where she would spend the rest of her life surrounded by her memories and family treasures.

Issie McCully passed away in 1945 with her beloved nephew George at her side.

Jane Mason McCully and Isadora (Issie) McCully are both buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 445, Plots 4 and 5.

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Gabriel Plymale and Mary (Polly) Hatfield Plymale

Gabriel was born on October 2, 1804, in Botetourt County, Virginia. He was the eighth child of thirteen born to Anthony and Bathia (Elizabeth) Bowen Plymale.

In later years two of Gabriel's brothers were living in Wayne County, Virginia and, when Gabriel went to visit them, he took an immediate liking to the land, purchased three tracts of land and built a log cabin.

It was there that he met and married Mary Hatfield on October 16, 1828, in Cabell County, Virginia. Mary was born on February 8, 1804, in Cabell County, Virginia. She was a member of the Hatfield clan in the famous "Hatfield & McCoy Feud." They moved into the cabin that Gabriel built, and their first three children were born there.

Then, in August of 1834, Gabriel sold the 160-acre farm and moved his family to Knox County, Illinois. Five more children would be born during their stay in Illinois. In 1852 Gabriel and Mary brought their family across the plains to Oregon. Family records suggest that perhaps Gabriel wanted better opportunities for his sons as one reason for heading westward. Another may have been the stories of all the gold to be found in the west. Whatever the reason, they made the long and difficult journey that would end in tragedy for the family. Joining the Plymales on the journey were their oldest child, daughter Minerva, her husband Robert Armstrong and their two children.

The families arrived in Jacksonville in October of 1852, but within a couple of weeks Gabriel became quite ill and died on November 11, 1852. Their oldest son, Anderville, also was very ill and died on December 22, 1852. Both died from Typhoid Fever, most likely from drinking bad water out of Goose Lake, one of their final stops before reaching Jacksonville. Since there was no cemetery at the time, they were buried at the foot of the hill near the current entrance to the Jacksonville Cemetery on Oregon and E Streets. Sometime after the cemetery opened in December of 1859, their remains were removed and reburied in the cemetery.

Having now lost both her husband and oldest son, Mary was left to care for her remaining children providing them with both shelter and food. With the help of her three boys, Francis, William and Sebastian and the community, she was able to build a home for her family and get some crops in.

All of Mary's children grew up to be well-respected citizens of Jacksonville. Mary lived in the home they built for the rest of her life. She died on April 3, 1875.

Gabriel, Mary, and their son Anderville are all buried in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 295, Plots 1, 2, and 3.

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General Thomas Givings Reames and Lucinda Wallace Reames

Thomas Givings was born on December 15, 1838, in Litchfield, Grayson County, Kentucky. He was the oldest son of Woodford and Mahulda Jane White Reames. In 1848 the Reames family moved to Carlinville, Macoupin County, Illinois where Woodford acquired a farm, livestock and did blacksmithing.

By the year 1851 numerous immigrant trains were passing through Illinois on their way west. Woodford couldn't resist the opportunity to join them and, in 1852, he did. He purchased two sturdy wagons, six oxen, packed his family and their belongings and in the spring of 1852 joined a passing wagon train.

Thomas Givings Reames was just thirteen when his family headed west, but he was able to do a man's work driving one of the wagons across the plains. The family arrived in St. Helens, Oregon where Thomas worked side by side with his father, Woodford, as a stevedore for the Hudson Bay Company. The pay was good but the gold fields and agricultural resources in Southern Oregon were calling Woodford. So once again the family was on the move. In the spring of 1853, they moved to a Donation Land Claim a few miles south of Phoenix, Oregon where they built a cabin, a blacksmith shop and did some farming. While living on the farm Thomas helped his father with the chores but, when he had the time, mined the creeks.

In 1864 Thomas decided it was time to strike out on his own and moved to Jacksonville. He was eager to make a place for himself and become an established citizen. He was soon appointed a deputy sheriff under County Sheriff William Owens.

It was during this period of time that Thomas met Lucinda Wallace. Lucinda was born on November 11, 1848, and was a native of St. Joseph, Missouri. She came across the plains with her parents in 1852, and they settled in the Eden area, and not far from the Reames homestead. They courted for around two years before they were married on July 4, 1866. Approximately a month after their marriage the young couple bought property on California Street, what was then just on the outskirts of town. There they would build their beautiful new home. Over the years it was enlarged to accommodate their family of ten children, four boys and six daughters.

After serving four years as a deputy sheriff, Thomas was elected sheriff of Jackson County in 1868 and served one two-year term. Thomas then decided to go into business for himself and purchased the Union Stables and opened a livery business. He could easily handle the blacksmithing given his years of experience working with his father, however the cost of buying an adequate inventory of various types of carriages put too great a strain on his resources.

He then went into partnership with Ben Sachs and opened a general merchandise business near the old Reames home in Phoenix. Four years later Thomas joined forces with his brother Evan and purchased the stock and business from White and Martin in Jacksonville and renamed the business the Reames Brothers. Their venture turned out to be so successful that they opened a branch in Linkville and also established and maintained a "Settlers Store" in connection with the army post at Fort Klamath.

Reames was prominent in both local and state politics. He served a number of terms on Jacksonville's City Council and was also the mayor. In 1878 Thomas was nominated by the Democratic State Convention for Secretary of State but lost that election by only 191 votes. That same year Governor Thayer appointed him Brigadier General of the 1st Brigade of the Oregon Militia, a title he retained for the rest of his life.

Thomas was a dedicated Mason and at one time was Grand Master of the State of Oregon. He was known for his integrity, character and strong friendships, and always took an interest and active role in civic affairs.

In 1887 he went into the banking business as a partner of C.C. Beekman. The Beekman Bank, which was established and operated entirely by Beekman, now became known as the Beekman and Reames Bank. Their partnership proved to be friendly, profitable and continued for a period of some fourteen years until Thomas' death.

General Thomas Givings Reames died on February 21, 1900. His funeral was said to be one of the largest, most imposing services seen by Jacksonville in an era of large, imposing funerals.

Lucinda Wallace Reams lived until the age of ninety-five and died on December 17, 1923. The last seventeen years of her life were spent in darkness after losing her sight. She was survived by nine of her children, three sons and six daughters.

Thomas and Lucinda are buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 442, Plots 1 and 3.

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Dr. James William Robinson and Sarah Matilda (Tillie) Miller Robinson

James was a Native Oregonian who was born in Reedville, Oregon on November 12, 1850. His parents and two older sisters came overland as early as 1846 and settled on a 640-acre Donation Land Claim in 1847.

James graduated from the medical school at Willamette University in 1875 with the school's highest rating in surgery. It was the only medical school in the state of Oregon at the time. Following graduation James went back east for postgraduate courses before returning to Oregon and settling in Jacksonville in 1878. Dr. Robinson once wrote of his arrival in Jacksonville that: "When I arrived in this beautiful valley, which was a lovely Sunday evening, I felt I had found my paradise. The church bells were ringing as we entered the old mining town of Jacksonville and these musical tones seemed to be a welcome."

On October 30, 1878, Dr. James Robinson married Dr. Ellen Ford in Salem, Oregon. It was reported by the Salem Statesman to have been "one of the most gorgeous affairs of the season." Dr. Ford graduated with honors from the Medical Department of Willamette University in 1877, where the bride and groom first met. She was reportedly one of the first female doctors to be educated and practice in Oregon.

In the fall of 1878 both Dr. James and Dr. Ellen Robinson had established a joint practice on Oregon Street in Jacksonville. Sadly, within a few months' time Ellen became critically ill. She returned to Salem thinking that perhaps a change in climate might help. Unfortunately, it did not and on July 4, 1879, and only nine months after their wedding, Ellen died from Tuberculosis at the age of 23.

James, who was in deep grief and exhausted from caring for Ellen, returned to his family's home in Portland closing his office in Jacksonville. He went to San Francisco to rest and recover. In about a month he returned to Jacksonville but was almost immediately called upon as his father was dying.

Needing a change of scene, James went to Walla Walla, Washington and in September 1879 opened a practice. Missing the Rogue River Valley that he loved, he closed his office in Walla Walla and returned to Jacksonville.

On May 17, 1882, Dr. James Robinson married Sarah Matilda (Tillie) Miller. Tillie was born on December 1859 in Burlington, Iowa to John (Gunsmith) and Mary Miller who emigrated from Germany. In 1860 John brought his wife Mary and two daughters, Amelia and Tillie across the plains to Oregon. He opened a gunsmith shop that was an immediate success. In a short time, he expanded into a hardware business moving into a new and larger building in 1874. As his fortunes increased, he bought mining property and real estate.

James and Tillie's wedding ceremony was held in the evening at the Masonic Temple with one hundred and fifty invitations being issued. The Democratic Times reported "the occasion was the most brilliant of the kind that ever occurred in Jacksonville." It seems as though Dr. Robinson had once again found love and happiness, at least for a while.

In 1884 a son, Willie Cecil was born, and the following year a daughter Mary Leah was born to the Robinsons. Tillie became enraptured with her role as a mother and with her two little children. They were dressed in velvet, laces and imported braids and were loved and pampered. As they got older Dr. Robinson would proudly walk the children about town.

Then in 1890 the diphtheria epidemic struck Jacksonville, and on October 15, little Willie died, followed by his younger sister Leah on October 21. Willie was only six and Leah was five. Both parents were grief stricken, but Dr. Robinson had to carry on as the town was filled with victims who also required his care and attention. The losses of others may have helped with the grief, but for a very long time Tillie found no consolation.

In 1892, Regina Dorland Robinson was born, and her parents were determined to make sure she would be tenderly cared for and that things would be different by shielding and protecting their new daughter from the world.

At the age of five Dorland was already showing an interest and skill in drawing and painting, something unusual for such a young child. Dr. Robinson was an amateur painter who had produced many landscapes of the valley he so admired. Both parents felt Dorland's talents should be developed.

She attended the Convent of the Holy Name in Jacksonville where she received instructions from the sisters and made remarkable progress in painting and on the piano. By the age of fourteen she had painted a number of landscapes and at least one portrait. Dorland had few playmates, appearing content to be alone. Aside from her classmates at the convent school she seldom associated with anyone her own age. Dr. Robinson walked her to school each morning and was always waiting to walk her home after classes were over.

Dorland's interest in painting and Dorland's future were the most important matters in the life of her parents, and they adjusted their life to her needs. In 1907 when Dorland was fifteen, they closed up the house, left the drugstore in capable hands, and took Dorland to Portland for formal study. Two years later they all travelled to Philadelphia where Dorland studied at the Academy of Fine Arts. Next Dorland studied in San Francisco. Tillie stayed with her while Dr. Robinson returned to his practice and business in Jacksonville.

Despite the best efforts of her parents to protect and shield Dorland, she met and married C.E. Pierson from New York City. He was reportedly a representative of the Yale Lock Company, most likely a salesman. Exactly when and where they met is unknown, but they were married in October 1916. The marriage was not a happy one, and it only lasted a couple of weeks. Her mother rushed to San Mateo, California to be with Dorland and found her overcome with nervous prostrations. Her recovery was prolonged, but she made plans to show her work in Oregon to be sponsored by the Greater Medford Club. On April 7, Dorland committed suicide and was found by her mother with a revolver at her side.

Tillie never got over the death of Dorland and died on June 13, 1931. Dr. Robinson sold his beautiful home and moved into the Jackson Hotel in Medford and lived there for seven years. He died on June 23, 1938.

Dr. James Robinson and Tillie Robinson are buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 267, Plots 11 and 12.

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