

2018

STORIES FROM MEET THE PIONEERS

Living History Tours presented in Jacksonville, Oregon's Pioneer Cemetery.

2018 – Our Twelfth Year

Vignette

[Pioneers of German Descent](#)

[A Widow and Single Parent at the Age of 38](#)

[A Gentlemen and Friend to All](#)

Narrative

[Historic Jacksonville Event](#)

Individual Stories

[Alfred St. Vrain and Helen Bundy Carpenter](#)

[Thomas Fletcher Royal and Mary Ann Stanley Royal](#)

[Birdseye Family](#)

[James D. and Margaret \(Maggie\) Riley Buckley](#)

[Frank and Mollie Krause](#)

[Ann Hill Russell](#)

MEET THE PIONEERS

2018



Character

Mrs. Amanda Bilger
Clarissa Birdseye
David Birdseye
James D. Buckley
Maggie Riley Buckley
Alfred Carpenter
Helen Carpenter
Adelaide Colvig
Abigail Duniway

Player

Lara Strazdas
Carolyn Kingsnorth
Jim Davidian
Mark Magladry
Vivienne Grant
David Sours
Jois Harkness
Marcy McQuillan
Lea Worcester

Character

Eleanor (teenager)
Rev. Thomas Royal
Uriah S. Hayden
Frank Krause
Mollie Krause
Mrs. Theresa Prim
Mary Ann Royal
Mrs. Ann Russell
Mrs. Henrietta Vining

Player

Mercy Woodman
Brian Nicholson
Robert Hight
Malcolm Carlaw
Lynn Ransford
Constance Jesser
Anne Peugh
Ann Wilson
Cerise Stephens

[\(Return\)](#)

Vignette, one of three presentations – Amanda Scheck Bilger, Pioneer of German Descent

Johannes (John) Bilger and Amanda Scheck Bilger were both born in Germany, John on July 31, 1831, and Amanda on October 26, 1840. They met and were married in Jackson County, Oregon on April 14, 1861. Like most of the early pioneers they came in search of gold, land and a better life.

John, who became a naturalized U.S citizen, was a respectable, hard-working entrepreneur who was involved in mining and land prospecting, as well as being a prosperous merchant. John and his partner, John Love, established Love & Bilger's Tin Shop on California Street in Jacksonville. They were fortunate that their business was located in a brick building which survived a number of fires that destroyed many of Jacksonville's wooden homes and businesses.

John was also involved in overseeing Jacksonville's governmental affairs and served in a number of prominent positions, including Street Commissioner. As a member of the Town Board, he helped plan community events such as the annual 4th of July Celebration, one of Jacksonville's largest and more popular events.

In 1863, John and Amanda had a home constructed on Blackstone Alley. It was designed in the Federalist style and was a two-story home built of brick by Patrick Fehley and David Linn. The large and well-appointed home would house the Bilger family which in time included eight children, six boys and two girls. The home still stands today and is a private residence.

The Bilgers were a prominent Jacksonville family and socially involved with the community and in particular with other German families who settled in the area. In 1870, John was elected to a committee to solicit subscriptions for the benefit of the German Sanitary Fund. At the time, the German Franco war was inflicting great harm, and Jacksonville's German community tried to raise funds to help with relief assistance. After the war between Germany and France ended, John was then on the committee to organize the 1871 Peace Jubilee Ball. John was also a member of both the Odd Fellows and the Masons fraternal organizations. He was elected treasurer of the Masonic Lodge in 1870.

John continued to prosper, both in land and mining and was on the Board which was organized to bring a railroad into the Rogue River Valley. As his reputation grew, he was nominated on the Republican ticket for Jackson County Treasurer, which he won.

The Bilgers became one of the wealthiest families in town. Their tin shop expanded, adding agriculture equipment as farming and ranching was now replacing mining. Trips were made to San Francisco and Portland where John and Amanda purchased large inventories of items to be sold in their shop. Weekly advertisements ran in the Oregon Sentinel telling readers of all the new items available for purchase in their shop.

Then in March of 1877, John suddenly became quite ill and died on April 3, shortly before what would have been his and Amanda's 17th wedding anniversary.

To celebrate his life, Amanda commissioned a beautiful marble monument to be placed at his grave site. The monument, which is the tallest in the Jacksonville Cemetery, features numerous symbolism designs including those of the fraternal organizations of which John was a member. Reportedly the monument cost \$1,200, a considerable amount in the 1870's. In today's dollars, that would represent closer to \$30,000.

Amanda, with the help of her older children, kept the store operating until 1885, when she decided to move to Portland. She sold the family home in 1889 and didn't return to Jacksonville until her passing in 1926.

John Bilger died on April 3, 1877, at the age of 46.

Amanda Scheck Bilger died on June 8, 1926, at the age of 86.

Both are buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 468, Plots 1 and 2.

[\(Return\)](#)

Vignette, second of three presentations – Henrietta Hoffman Vining, Widow and Single Parent at the Age of 38

Henrietta Hoffman Vining was born on June 26, 1837, in Attica, Indiana and was the eldest of the six daughters born to William and Caroline Hoffman. When she was fifteen years of age, her family crossed the plains and arrived in Oregon in 1853. Henrietta's mother Caroline suffered from severe asthma and her uncle, Dr. Henry McKinnell, suggested a change in climate might be beneficial. So, the Hoffman's packed their belongings and headed west in hopes that Caroline would find some relief from her illness. Mr. Hoffman, who was a pious lay preacher, also looked forward to perhaps establishing a new church in the frontier.

Henrietta being the oldest daughter was kept busy helping her mother care for her sisters during the six-month journey. Julia was fourteen, Ann Sophia was eleven, Emma was nine, Florence was five and little Kate was only three. Also joining the Hoffman family was William's two unmarried sisters and a married sister and her husband Dr. McKinnell.

After arriving in Oregon's Rogue Valley, the family settled into a very small cabin about six miles from Jacksonville. The girls used an attic as their bedroom which they reached by a ladder. The two covered wagons that were used for the crossing were placed, one on each side, of the cabin and served as bedrooms for the aunts and uncle. It was pretty tight quarters, but the family was happy to have arrived safely and now had a roof over their heads.

In 1854 Henrietta opened a one room schoolhouse near Talent where she was able to put her private education to good use. There were twelve students, and classes were held in a cabin with a dirt floor. The classroom lacked desks and had crude benches made out of slabs of wood for the students to sit on. Each student had a different textbook but, despite the short falls, students were given an introduction to the three R's. Tuition was paid for by way of vegetables and poultry and, before long, the class size grew to forty students. Reportedly Henrietta was the first teacher in the first school in Southern Oregon.

Henrietta loved teaching and planned on a long career of doing so, that was until she met and married George Vining, a Jacksonville farmer, on December 31, 1855. She first met George when she and her family took refuge at a neighbor's fortified home during an Indian raid.

The couple soon moved to Kirbyville, which at the time was a mining camp in Josephine County where they built a store and a hotel. George ran the store, and Henrietta ran the hotel and kitchen. Their first children, Kate, Millie and Frank were all born in Kirbyville.

In 1864, the family moved to Albany, where George briefly became involved in Oregon politics and their second son, William joined the family. Next the family moved to Franklin in the Washington Territory where they acquired another store. Three more sons were born: Ralph, Robert, and Irving with Sister Emma joining the family later on.

Life was good, the business was thriving, and the large family was healthy and happy.

Then tragedy struck in 1875 when George was killed. His fog-bound ship collided with another vessel off Cape Flattery on the Washington Coast, drowning everyone on board. George was taking a shipment of merchandise to San Francisco when disaster struck.

Suddenly, Henrietta found herself a widow at thirty-eight years old with eight children to support and very little money. She decided it would be best to move back to the Rogue River Valley to be closer to her family and old friends. Her parents still lived in Jacksonville and were being cared for by her sister Kate. Sister Julia was married to the banker C. C. Beekman, Ann Sophia was married to David Linn, a skilled wood worker and furniture maker, and Florence Ella was married to Mr. Whipp who owned and operated the Jacksonville Marble Works. All lived in Jacksonville, so it made good sense to have her children near their grandparents and aunts and uncles as they were having a difficult time coping with the loss of their father.

In 1877, Henrietta was able to purchase a small hotel in Ashland where she operated it as a boarding house. She was able to support her children and soon became a much admired and honored resident of Ashland. At the time of her passing in 1933, Henrietta was among the oldest of Southern Oregon's living pioneer women.

Henrietta Hoffman Vining died on January 12, 1933, at the age of 96. She is buried in Ashland, Oregon.

William and Caroline Hoffman and several Hoffman family members are buried in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 220.

[\(Return\)](#)

Vignette, third of three presentations – Uriah Seabury Hayden, a Gentleman and Friend to All

Born on July 8, 1810, in Saybrook, Connecticut, Uriah Seabury Hayden arrived in Jacksonville, Oregon in 1852. Uriah had spent some time as a merchant before becoming an officer on a merchant ship in the Mediterranean. He arrived in San Francisco in 1850 after sailing around the Cape Horn on the ship Panama. He then made his way to Oregon's Willamette Valley before coming down south to Jacksonville.

Arriving in Jacksonville as just another miner, he found nearly a thousand people all trying to find the next big strike. This was not your typical mining camp. Miners were busy working their claims and didn't have the time or necessarily the interest in the governance of a town.

This changed when the then Alcalde, a person who functioned as both mayor and judge, H. H. Rogers, was caught accepting a bribe. While most of the miners didn't like Rogers, they also didn't give him much attention because they could be moving on to the next strike. But when Rogers gave a mining claim to one partner over the other, that got the attention of the other miners. Working a mining claim as partners was considered a sacred trust, and this one had been broken.

The miners got together and nominated Hayden as Judge for a court of Appeals because Alcalde Rogers refused to re-open his court. In Rogers' mind, he had settled the matter and had his share of the loot, so the case was closed.

After being confirmed by P.P. Prim, Uriah set to work sending the newly appointed sheriff to carry out the writ of mandamus commanding the parties to appear before him. A jury of twelve men were installed and asked to review and decide on the facts. Both parties were represented by lawyers and after the cases were presented the jury found that miner Sims had abandoned his partner miner Sprenger, a most heinous offense in a mining camp. Rather than allowing physical harm to come to Sims and former Alcalde Rogers as the irate camp wanted, Uriah ordered that the partnership be reinstated, and that Sims and Rogers restore the money they had plundered from Sprenger.

The next year Hayden was elected as the new Alcalde. He was well respected by the miners who thought of him as having a sense of justice and that his decisions were equitable and true to the principles of justice.

Uriah continued to mine until 1857 when he accepted a position as a clerk in the store of Kenny and Hamlin. The following year he went to work for William Hoffman in his express office. Then in 1859, he went to work as a clerk for Mr. C. C. Beekman, a job he kept for the next twenty years. They enjoyed a warm and trusting relationship with Mr. Beekman placing the utmost confidence in Uriah's handling of the business.

Hayden was elected Recorder for the town of Jacksonville, a position he held until his passing.

In January 1879, Uriah came down with a chill resulting in an acute attack of pleurisy followed by pleura-pneumonia and passed away within a week.

The Oregon Sentinel wrote that Uriah Hayden was a gentleman of the old school in every respect, of refined culture, the very highest sense of honor, and whose mind was as pure as that of an infant. A man who filled an honorable place in the history of the county.

Funeral services were led by Rev. Moses Williams at the Protestant Episcopal Church where Uriah had been a regular member. Attendance at his service and burial were exceedingly large with people coming from across the county to pay their respects. The funeral service took place at the Beekman home with Mr. Beekman leading the procession to Uriah's final resting place in the Beekman family block in the cemetery.

Uriah Seabury Hayden died on January 31, 1879, at the age of 68. He is buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 444, Plot 1.

[\(Return\)](#)

Narrative - Historic Jacksonville Event, Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, a Pioneer Suffragette comes to town

Abigail Scott was born on October 22, 1834 in Groveland, Illinois. At the age of seventeen she joined her parents and brother on a wagon train headed across the plains to Oregon. Abigail, who had an adventuresome spirit, expected the journey to be filled with excitement and thrills. In fact, what she experienced mostly was tragedy. There were exhausted oxen, days without food and water, wagons stuck in mud, their money stolen, and then four months into the crossing Abigail's mother and little brother died. Finally arriving in The Dalles she and her father were heartbroken, hungry, broke and shoeless. Her adventuresome spirit was broken but would soon return.

In 1854, Abigail married a farmer, Ben Duniway, and settled into the life and routine of being a farmer's wife and mother to four children. This all changed in 1870, when the 15th Amendment passed granting citizens the right to vote. However, when Abigail and all the other women in the United States realized that "citizen" only meant men, the suffragette movement was born. Abigail wanted that same right to vote, not only for her, but for all women, and she became a suffragette and began to lecture and write in support of the movement. Her adventuresome spirit had returned.

In 1879, Abigail Scott Duniway travelled to Jacksonville, Oregon on a lecture tour. Abigail wondered why there were so few women in attendance on the first evening lecture but soon discovered why. It seems that copies of her newspaper, The New Northwest, were delivered to Jacksonville that very morning and in it she wrote a letter criticizing a very important man in town. She wrote about Judge Prim, who several years before wanted to divorce his wife and even though they had since reconciled, Abigail felt she needed to voice her opinion in support of Mrs. Theresa Prim and not the Judge.

Upon leaving the hotel for the next evening's lecture, hooligans threw eggs at Abigail, some not being fresh, while others hung her in effigy with a sign that said "She devil Duniway and family libeler." Then they lit it on fire!

In addition to the citizens of Jacksonville taking great exception to the story that Duniway wrote for her newspaper, reportedly so did Theresa Prim, the Judge's wife. She referred to it as being a terrible story about her husband and a well-respected citizen of Jacksonville and that the story had awakened such a long-forgotten squabble. Years earlier Mrs. Prim became tired and unhappy taking care of two infants while the Judge traveled and it just became too much for her. She left her husband and took the children with her. Later on, Theresa realized that her actions at the time caused her husband to be publicly humiliated and understood him for wanting to divorce her. Since that time the couple reconciled and had lived a quiet and happy life here in Jacksonville.

Mrs. Duniway had a reputation for being too quick to judge people, for speaking without restraint and attacking those who did not favor suffragettes. She antagonized the Women's Christian Temperance Union calling it "hypocritical churchianity."

Abigail had admitted that homemaking was not easy for her. Her husband Ben was a hard working farmer but, didn't make enough money so she helped support the family by opening a school and a millinery shop. She also took in boarders and published her newspaper. She didn't think Ben supported the suffragette movement despite him telling her that he did. Early on when she finished giving her first lecture to the Women's Suffrage Convention in San Francisco, she had an opportunity to go on a paid lecture tour but Ben insisted she come home.

Abigail felt it was only because of the money she could make at her shop. She often felt robbed of the existence she should have had.

While most women may receive their greatest satisfaction from taking care of their husbands and children, they are not seen as equals by the law and are considered less worthy than men. When Abigail's husband Ben took out a loan, she was his silent partner with no voice. But when he defaulted, she was equally responsible for the debt and asked if that was fair.

Duniway, who greatly admired Susan B. Anthony, was influenced by her work and credited her for becoming a passionate suffragette. Anthony went on a lecture tour of Oregon and Washington and was accompanied by Abigail on the one-thousand mile and thirty-five-day trip.

Together they were very popular speakers. They endured the trash and rotten fruit that was sometimes thrown at them and the newspapers that accused them of being "manly" and outspoken screeching women. One paper said they thought they were worse than the small pox, chills and fever combined. Duniway was thought to be often shrill and antagonistic to the point where she alienated others. Abigail accepted that she had a short fuse and was a poor organizer and did not always listen to others. This she blamed on a hardscrabble life as a pioneer woman, wife and mother and it made her a fighter to fight "in her own way" until women had the right to vote.

In 1812, after six failures, the Oregon Legislature finally passed the women's voting right amendment. Because Abigail refused to compromise, she was blamed by other suffragettes for these failures. She felt that even her mentor, Susan B. Anthony, had abandoned her.

In 1912, Governor West asked Abigail to write the Oregon Emancipation Proclamations. She was the first to sign it and was Oregon's first registered voter.

Duniway's speeches are published in a book called "She Flies with Her Own Wings," which is, also, the Oregon State Motto that reflects its independent pioneer spirit.

Abigail Scott Duniway wrote: *"The young women of today, free to study, to speak, to write, to choose their occupation, should remember that every inch of this freedom was bought for them at a great price. It is for them to show their gratitude by helping onward the reforms of their own times, by spreading the light of freedom and of truth still wider."*

Susan B. Anthony wrote: *"I declare to you that woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself, and there I take my stand".*

Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway died on October 11, 1915 at the age of 79. She is buried in the River View Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. Theresa Stearns Prim died on June 8, 1913 at the age of 74. She is buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 274.

[\(Return\)](#)

Alfred St. Vrain Carpenter and Helen Bundy Carpenter

Alfred was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on May 7, 1881, and Helen Fairchild Bundy was born in Oneonta, New York on February 26, 1886.

During the early 1900's "orchard boom" a family friend sent word that Southern Oregon was the place to be. So, in 1909 Alfred and his brother Leonard left Colorado and traveled to Oregon. They first stopped in Hood River where they took out an option on some property. While Alfred returned to Colorado to wrap up some business affairs, Leonard made his way down to Southern Oregon and the Rogue River Valley. By the time Alfred returned, he and his brother were the owners of sixty rocky acres in Medford which Leonard named Veritas Orchards.

Here the two Harvard bachelors, without any agricultural experience whatsoever, managed to plow the rocky acres with draft horses and planted 7,000 pear trees. They built a "bachelor farmhouse" on the corner of Hillcrest and Foothill roads in Medford and kept working the rocky soil. Two years later, Alfred and Leonard's older brother Dunbar came west and joined them. He also practiced law in Medford.

By 1914, it became clear that a better water supply was needed for the orchards. Dunbar led a campaign to bring water from Little Butte Creek to the dry areas of the valley. Around 1917 the Medford Water District was formed with Leonard Carpenter as its first President. In the 1920's, irrigation water from the Medford Water District was flowing to previously dry areas of Medford and the surrounding areas.

On January 17, 1915, a son, Dunbar F. Carpenter Jr. was born to Dunbar and his wife Helen. Their new son joined his parents and uncles all living under the same roof of the former "bachelor farmhouse." In 1917, the family moved to Berkeley, California then eventually back to Boston to be closer to Helen's family.

Things around the "bachelor farmhouse" got pretty quiet for a while, that is until Leonard married Winifred Barrett who shortly thereafter started to remodel the place. By 1920 the place was finally finished, and Alfred decided it was a good time to take a world cruise.

Helen Bundy was raised in upstate New York where her father co-founded the Bundy Manufacturing Company. They made business time clocks, the breakthrough technology of the day. She had been married to Dr. Ken Kellogg who died just a few years later. It seems Helen was also ready to take a world cruise and, as good fortune would have it, she took the same cruise as Alfred. They met, fell in love and were married in Cairo, Egypt in 1922. After returning home they settled in Pasadena, California where a daughter Julia, was born in 1923, and followed by a son Harlow, in 1926.

During this same time period, Helen's father's business became part of the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company which became IBM in 1924. In time, the Bundy family stake in IBM made Helen and her two siblings wealthy.

By 1926 Alfred was anxious to return to the Rogue Valley and get back to work. His brother, Leonard, and sister-in-law, Winnie, had been farming the Veritas Orchards for several years now. Alfred and Helen purchased forty-eight sloping acres across the valley near Jacksonville. They planted pears and built a home they called "Topsides" where Helen created beautiful gardens.

“Topsides”, while a bit different from Alfred and Leonard’s original “bachelor farmhouse,” was a wonderful place to raise children and soon became the site of numerous social events, many for the benefit of local organizations. Inspired by the summer picnics the Carpenters gave each year for the young actors of the then new Oregon Shakespeare Festival, their children, Julie and Harlow, and their friends put on shows for Helen and Alfred in the “Topsides” theater.

When the Oregon Shakespeare Festival outdoor stage was declared to be unsafe, Helen’s concern for the young actors prompted her to set up a matching grant to make the necessary repairs. Ivy cuttings from her garden were donated to landscape the walls of the rebuilt Elizabethan Theater.

Alfred and Leonard, working with Col. Gordon Voorhies of Eden Valley Orchards, organized Southern Oregon Sales “to take care of everything,” once the fruit was picked such as the washing, packing, marketing and accounting. Southern Oregon Sales made a huge difference for the small Rogue Valley growers. When the Depression took hold, it helped to save some of the small growers.

With World War II and a population of some 40,000 servicemen at Camp White, the Carpenters formed the Jackson County Recreation Committee to help provide activities for military personnel. Helen purchased the Pac Tel building in downtown Medford to provide an entertainment venue.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival project and the Recreation Committee showed Alfred and Helen how much good could be accomplished with the kind of resources Helen’s inheritance was providing. Following the war, the Committee started providing student scholarships, helping with the Community Hospital and building a local Chapter House for the Red Cross. In 1952, their challenge grant helped to kick off funding for the new Rogue Valley Medical Center.

In 1958, the Committee became what is known today as the Carpenter Foundation with Helen as its President. More grants followed including to the Angus Bowmer Theater and Carpenter Hall in Ashland as well as to the development of the Britt Music Festival and acquisition of property for the Jacksonville Woodlands.

In 1946, Alfred’s brother Leonard asked nephew, Dunbar Carpenter Jr. and his wife Jane to take over Veritas Orchards. Dunbar was the son of Alfred and Leonard’s older brother and had recently returned home after serving in World War II as a pilot.

Following Helen Bundy Carpenter’s passing in 1961, Jane Carpenter, wife of Dunbar Carpenter Jr. replaced Helen on the Foundation Board. When Alfred died in 1974, Jane became the President of the Foundation Board for the next thirty years, continuing the work that Alfred and Helen had started.

Today, Jane and Dunbar’s children, the third generation, own those first rocky acres and daughters, Emily and Karen, are President and Vice President of the Carpenter Foundation. They oversee Foundation assets of nearly twenty million dollars and make grants in the community of some \$750,000 annually. One grant that was given just before Helen passed, that was extra special to her, was recommended by her son Harlow, and was to Harvard University to house the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. Harlow became a renowned Modernist sculptor in the Northeast.

Alfred St. Vrain Carpenter died on December 7, 1974, at the age of 83 and is buried in the Odd Fellow Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 24. Helen Bundy Carpenter died on September 13, 1961, at the age of 75 and is buried in the San Gabriel Cemetery in Pasadena, California.

[\(Return\)](#)

Reverend Thomas Fletcher Royal and Mary Ann Stanley Royal

Thomas and Mary Ann left Illinois with their two young children in 1853, westward bound on a wagon train known as the “The Preacher Train.” There were five preachers on the train, including Thomas, his father and a brother. As they headed out across the plains, some in their company were surprised to learn that the preachers did not intend to travel on Sundays, but planned to rest the animals, rest themselves, and hold religious services.

A number of those in the party were concerned that by taking a day off from travel they may never reach Oregon. They thought they would be caught in the mountains by the snow or perhaps killed by Indians. The preachers held true to their beliefs and had a safe passage. Three weeks after arriving in Jacksonville Thomas came across a man who left the train because they would not travel on Sundays. He was just arriving in his broken-down wagon with a bony horse and cow hitched to the back of the wagon. Thomas thought, the Lord watched over those who rested in His name.

On October 6, 1853, a day after walking nine miles down the mountain to Goose Lake, Mary Ann delivered her and Thomas’s third child in the back of their wagon. Weeks later they laid eyes on the Rogue River Valley for the first time and were taken with all its beauty. Thomas wrote in his journal, “All these hills speak to me. Every valley laughs and every murmuring stream has a song for me.”

They found it so appealing they decided to stay. Jacksonville was in need of a preacher, and Thomas had a family to support. Reverend Smith had started raising funds to build a church, and Thomas and Mary Ann took over the cause. Thomas preached on Sundays in private homes and temporary meeting rooms, anywhere he could while waiting for a church to be built.

When the Royal family first arrived, they lived at the edge of town in a twelve foot square shanty with a dirt floor. By trading his watch and shotgun, Thomas was able to move the family into town and into a one room log cabin with a fireplace. They didn’t have much money, but with their faith and love in their hearts they shared with the people of Jacksonville.

Jacksonville at the time was a mining town, and not all of its residents were peace loving and church attending folk. There were some difficult times like when Thomas invited a local preacher, Isaac Jones, a man of color, to come to a meeting and to pray with the group, he and Mary Ann were threatened and even cursed for being abolitionists.

Another time, Thomas rode out to Sterling to seek donations for the church building fund, despite a warning that a large group of drunken miners blamed him for the fines placed on the saloons that served liquor on Sundays. Thomas walked into the saloons singing hymns and was soon followed by a few women... and the men quietly followed. Thomas reported that while the miners were drinking and gambling men, they were generous in their donations to the building fund, especially when he told them that he could put their ill-gotten gains to better use.

Thomas and Mary Ann got the church built, with Mary Ann boarding the builders and sewing the duck cloth that covered the walls and ceiling of the church. Mary Ann organized and directed the first choir. Many a lonely miner can recall Mary Ann's sacrificing efforts to help them in time of sickness.

Thomas served one term as Jackson County Superintendent of Schools. Education, along with their missionary work was important to both Thomas and Mary Ann. After being Pastor of Jacksonville for a couple of years, Thomas was appointed Principal at Umpqua Academy.

The couple served as missionaries and teachers for the Siletz Indian Reservation and the Klamath Indian Mission. Mary Ann also worked with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and was honored to work with Mrs. Frances Willard, a gifted Temperance speaker. They worked on social issues including women's rights reforms, abstinence and education.

The Methodist Episcopal Church that the Royals built still stands on 5th Street in Jacksonville and continues to be house of worship. It was dedicated on Christmas Day 1854.

Reverend Fletcher Royal and Mary Ann Stanley Royal rest in the Salem Pioneer Cemetery.

[\(Return\)](#)

Birdseye Family – (pronounced Birds-ee) David and Clarissa (Clara) Birdseye and their daughter Adelaide (Addie) Birdseye Colvig

Adelaide, or Addie as she was called by her family and friends, was born on January 29, 1856, to David Birdseye and Clara Fleming Birdseye in a log cabin on their Donation Land Claim near the Rogue River. She grew up on her parents' farm along with her brothers and sisters.

During the Rogue Indian Wars travelers through the area would often stop at the Birdseye homestead and ask if they could stay the night for safety. David actually built a stockade around the two-room cabin resulting in their home becoming known as Fort Birdseye. At one point during the Indian Wars, Fort Birdseye even provided temporary housing for Army personnel.

On June 8, 1879, Addie married William Mason Colvig. They would have seven children, all successful, but one standout was son Vance Debar "Pinto", better known as Bozo the Clown. Vance became quite well known and famous in Hollywood.

Addie's father David Birdseye was born in Connecticut and came west in 1849 in search of gold. He ended up in The Dalles where he met the arriving immigrants coming over the Oregon Trail. He would buy any goods that they didn't want and sell them things that they needed. When gold was discovered in Jacksonville in 1851, he brought all his supplies down to Jacksonville and sold them to the miners. He opened a trading post in the newly formed town and continued to travel up north and help the new arrivals navigate the Columbia River. It was on one of these trips that he met Clarissa Fleming who would become his wife.

Clarissa was born in Virginia and came west on the Oregon Trail with her family. Her father, as so many others, came in search of gold. Later he ran a hotel in Portland called the Willamette House, a residential hotel for the middle and upper class. As a result, Clarissa, her mother and sister, became a part of the early social scene in Portland. Clarissa first met David on one of his trips north to meet arriving wagon trains. David proposed during a boat trip on the Willamette River. Reportedly after Clarissa's father gave his blessing to the marriage, he later expressed some concerns saying David was a "blue bellied Yankee." Despite trying to talk his daughter out of marrying David, the couple was married at her father's hotel in 1853.

Years later Clarissa would say that David was so anxious to get under way that they barely finished eating their wedding breakfast when he announced it was time to go! He brought the horses around, helped Clarissa into her saddle, and off they went on the 300-mile trek to Jacksonville to start their new life.

However, living in a dirty mining town was not to the likes of Clarissa, especially after her life in Portland. The couple moved out of Jacksonville to David's Donation Land Claim on the Rogue River about 20 miles from Jacksonville. Tensions between the white settlers and the Indians were high at the time, something that did not bother Clarissa. She befriended two young Indian girls who helped her around the cabin and later when her first son was born, James Gould Birdseye, helped care for him as well. They were quite taken with this little white baby, something that they had not seen before.

One of Addie's favorite stories was about the Chinese man, Yung Sam, that her mother had hired to help around the house. It seems that Clarissa decided to teach Yung Sam how to bake a plain cake. It was a warm day and the window by the sink in the area they were working was open. While it was difficult to communicate, given Yung Sam did not speak English and Clarissa spoke no Chinese, she did her best. Trying to explain how to tell whether an egg was fresh or not, would prove to be especially challenging.

As Clarissa added each egg, one at a time to the dry ingredients, the first three were all fresh, however the fourth egg was bad. Without hesitation Clarissa simply tossed the bad egg out the open window. From that time on, every time Yung Sam made a cake, he would toss the fourth egg out of the window! Clarissa was never able to find a way to explain that only the bad eggs got thrown away.

David was successful at some business ventures but not so successful at others. He managed to hold on to the ranch, which along with a good family name was all he thought he would have to leave his children. On one occasion, in the spring of 1862, he told Clarissa that he was going to Grants Pass and she asked that he bring back some seed corn. Well, David agreed and was true to his word except that three crop years had come and gone before he returned!

He had gone to Montana to see if the stories of the silver strike were true. He found they weren't and stayed on to help an uncle by packing in supplies for his store. When he finally returned, he realized how much Clara had accomplished and how strong she was. Their marriage proved to be difficult, and David moved off the ranch for a while, returning shortly before his passing in 1898 at the age of 71.

Clarissa continued to work the ranch until she was physically unable. She suffered a number of small strokes, with each one making her weaker. She died in 1915 at the age of 81.

David and Clarissa are buried in the Rock Point Cemetery near Gold Hill and their ranch. Their daughter, Addie Birdseye Colvig, is buried in the City section, Block 255, Plot 2, of the Jacksonville Cemetery.

Addie and her siblings married and raised families of their own. True to their father's word, the old Birdseye Ranch still stands. The original log house built in 1856 was gutted during a fire, but one of the Birdseye kin had the house rebuilt to the original design which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2016, Del Rio Vineyard bought the ranch and now grows and harvests wine grapes on the property.

[\(Return\)](#)

James David and Margaret (Maggie) Riley Buckley

James, who was born in Ireland in 1836, immigrated with his family to America in 1852 due to the potato famine. After arriving in New York, he and his older brother John somehow were separated from their family. James, who was 16 years of age at the time, along with his older brother John, age 22, decided to head west in search of gold. Joining a wagon train, they arrived in California then made their way on foot to Poorman's Creek near Jacksonville, where they were ready to mine.

James's brother, John, purchased a 160-acre Donation Land Claim in 1863. He also bought some choice river bottom land from David Hopkins. The original Donation Land Claim was given to Jacob Toffelmier who for whatever reason failed to live up to the terms of the Donation Land Claim agreement with the United States Government. A major requirement was that the land had to be lived on and cultivated in some fashion for four consecutive years. Doing so entitled the individual to file a claim of ownership. Some folks just couldn't make a go of it and moved on. Perhaps that is what happened in the case of Jacob Toffelmier, and the land reverted back to the Government and was sold to John Buckley.

James then purchased a 160-acre parcel of land that adjoined John's land on the east. Together they farmed some 350 acres from the Applegate River to the hills above Upper Applegate Road for ten years or so.

Margaret (Maggie) Riley was born on June 5, 1854, in New Jersey. Her parents came to the United States from Ireland. She married James David Buckley in Jackson County, Oregon on June 13, 1871.

A couple years later in 1873, John Buckley also married and turned over his original homestead to his brother James after purchasing a 320-acre Donation Land Claim nearby. Maggie and James had eight children, all of whom survived to adulthood, with the exception of Francis, who died at the age of five.

Their first home was destroyed in a fire and, in 1880, they built a new home on the property. The new home had a wooden water tower just behind the house and reportedly was one of the first homes to have water pumped inside and electric lights that were run by a generator with a one-cylinder kerosene engine.

In 1907 James deeded the ranch to Maggie and died the following year, on October 30, 1908. Maggie had the help of four of her children in running the ranch, Kate, Rose, John and David, none of whom had married. Maggie died on February 15, 1933. Lewis Buckley, Maggie's only surviving grandchild inherited the entire ranch. In 1962, Jackson County purchased forty-five acres of riverfront from Harlan Cantrall and Lewis Buckley to construct today's Cantrall Buckley Park in the Applegate Valley. Lewis retained twenty acres on the Upper Applegate Road for his retirement home.

James David and Maggie Buckley are buried in the Catholic section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in block F6, plots 6 and 7.

Today the area continues to provide enjoyment for families, as it did for the Buckley's when they lived on the land. The park offers picnic tables, shelters, restrooms, campgrounds, a playground and of course the beautiful Applegate River.

[\(Return\)](#)

Frank and Mary (Mollie) Bilger Krause

Frank Krause Jr. was born on March 5, 1851, and came west with his parents from Burlington, Iowa.

Years later when his father passed away, he stayed with his mother to help care for her. Being a son and only child he felt responsible to do so. After his mother remarried, he moved to Kalama in the Washington Territory and became manager of the telegraph office. When his mother's second husband passed approximately four years later, he returned to Jacksonville to once again be with her.

Frank learned the telegraph and printing trade from B.F. Dowell, then owner and editor of Jacksonville's newspaper, the Oregon Sentinel. Frank respected Dowell, a Republican who took over the paper from William Green T' Vault, in 1864. T'Vault was known for his animosities and intemperate discussions and was a Southern sympathizer and even supported Oregon and California seceding from the Union to form a Pacific Republic. This may be akin to that mythical State of Jefferson so often written and talked about.

In 1878, Frank purchased the Oregon Sentinel newspaper from Dowell. Frank was knowledgeable and dedicated to the idea that a Democracy needs an informed public to succeed, with a newspaper providing only good and honest news. There would be no "fake news" in his paper. He was known to be a ready debater and allowed for difference of opinions but insisted on civil discourse.

A year later, on March 5, 1879, he married Mary (Mollie) Bilger in Jackson County, Oregon. Mollie was born on February 16, 1859, and came west with her Uncle John Bilger, a prominent Jacksonville merchant. Mollie, who was 20 years old when she married, said that any man who cared for his mother the way that Frank did, would certainly make a good husband and father. Frank and Mollie would have three children, Ella, Frank Ottis and Margaret.

Frank reported on world events and happenings in faraway locations like Afghanistan and India. Most residents in Jacksonville weren't exactly sure of where these places were located. He always gave his readers much to think about: like when the railroad decided to bypass Jacksonville in favor of Medford in 1883, Frank pointed out that Jacksonville was still close enough to receive all the benefits, while avoiding the disadvantages such as of noisy clattering cars and screaming engines.

He was not afraid to take a strong stand on important issues such as concealed weapons. Two residents got into a brawl on California Street ending when one of the men pulled a concealed weapon and shot and killed the other man. Frank wrote that it was an argument, hot blood and high words, scuffle and a pistol shot. Without the pistol, it would have been just a fist fight, and all would have lived to tell of it. No sane person believes for one moment that it is necessary for anyone to carry a pistol on the streets of Jacksonville as a matter of personal protection. It is almost universally true that concealed weapons are a mark of cowardice. A brave, honest, peaceful man who has the moral courage to run rather than lift his hand to shed his neighbor's blood, finds no need of pistols, and if he did, he would carry them boldly without concealment.

Frank was a man of great moral courage and integrity and a community leader. He was active in the Masonic Lodge and the Ruth Rebekah Lodge. He was also a charter member of the Ancient Order of United Workman in Jacksonville. It was the first organization to pay death benefits to a deceased member's family. Frank saw the need for this firsthand when his own father died young leaving him to care for his mother.

Sadly, Frank Krause Jr. passed away on November 28, 1886, at the age of 35. Mollie was a widow at the age of 27 with three small children to raise alone.

Mollie remarried around six years later to Theodric (Tod) Cameron who was thirty years her senior, but a very prominent citizen and good man. They had a son, Charles Donald Cameron.

In 1904 Mollie travelled to Klamath Falls to be with her daughter-in-law who was expecting a child. While there she suffered intestinal trouble and was rushed to the hospital for surgery. She died on the operating table. The custom at the time would have called for her to be buried next to her first husband, Frank Krause. Reportedly, her husband Tod was so devastated by the loss of Mollie, he had her buried in his family's block.

Frank Krause Jr. is buried in the I.0.0.F section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 405, Plot 2. Mollie Bilger Krause Cameron is buried alongside Theodric (Tod) Cameron in the Masonic section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 470, Plot 10.

[\(Return\)](#)

Ann Hill Russell

Ann's father, and older brother LaGrande Hill, went to the gold fields of California in 1849 in hopes of striking it rich. Unlike most, they did rather well in the gold fields of Yreka, California. Her father returned to Tennessee to bring the rest of his family west to Oregon while LaGrande stayed behind to continue mining.

In 1852, Ann Hill, along with her parents, two brothers and her two older sisters headed west. Sadly, Ann's brother John drowned as they were crossing the Missouri River near Council Bluffs. They could not find his body in the muddy waters, and the family had to move on. John was only 23 years old, and Ann mourned her brother's tragic death for many years.

April 14, 1852, was a special day for Ann and her family. Not only was it Ann's 14th birthday, but it was also "jumping off" day for those Pioneers headed to Oregon to split away from the rest of the wagon train. It was a pretty busy and exciting day and with all the commotion of mule and oxen teams, wagons, horses, men, women and children everywhere all anxious to get under way, no one remembered Ann's birthday.

When the family finally arrived at the Columbia River in Oregon, Ann's brother LaGrande was there to meet the family. Ann, her mother and sisters had not seen him in three years. The family made a feast with the fresh potatoes that LaGrande had brought with him.

The family stayed in Salem to rest and wait out winter. Ann and her father caught the "mountain fever" (malaria), and it took three months for them to recover. When spring came, the Hill family set out for the final journey to their new home, seven miles south of Ashland, Oregon. At last, on April 14, 1853, Ann's 15th birthday, her father announced, "tonight we will be home" and they were.

It wasn't too long before Ann's brother LaGrande and brother Cicero departed the new homestead and returned to the mine fields in Yreka. That left Ann, her two sisters and parents to manage the farm. They milked the cows and made butter and cheese that they sold to the Packers who hauled supplies over the mountains to be sold to those mining. The Hills received \$1 for butter and 75 cents for a pound of cheese. Their staple foods, such as coffee, sugar, bacon and flour, came by way of pack trains from Crescent City where supplies arrived by ships from South America and San Francisco.

It was one of those pack train operators that would become Ann Hill's future husband. James Russell met Ann, became taken with her and started courting her. On one trip he brought Ann some chickens and a cat all the way from Crescent City. Ann recalled that there were not any other cats in the area at the time and this one was just glad to get out of the basket and off the mule!

Ann and James, who was 31 years old, were married in 1854, just a month after her 16th birthday.

After they were married, James gave up operating pack trains and started a marble carving business, something he learned working back east. As time went on, business picked up and they were doing well. Ann always found it fascinating to watch James work and carve. She was always looking for ways to help James as he suffered from an old mining injury that had shattered his leg. One day James walked into the kitchen and found Ann carving on a scrap of marble she had set up on a kitchen table. She was trying to carve some simple flowers. Jim was somewhat surprised at what he saw and said, "Well I'll be! You're pretty good at that!" After that James started teaching Ann more and more about carving and the business and soon, she was helping him to make headstones and other monuments.

In addition to helping James and keeping house, Ann and James had eleven children that needed care and attention. It was not uncommon at the time to have such a large family. They wanted their children to grow up safe and sober in a “dry” town, a Christian town, free from the temptations of drink. For forty-five years Ann was a member of the local Women’s Christian Temperance Unit and served as its first President. At one point, Ann and her fellow members of the “Anti-Saloon League” set up their rocking chairs in front of a saloon and took turns sitting and knitting until, after a few days, the devil’s den closed its doors and moved to Medford.

Ann also spoke before the Daughters of the American Revolution of which she and her sisters were proud members. Ann’s sister Martha wrote a book about the Hill family’s journey west called “Overland to Oregon”, while their sister Mary wrote one and called it “Undaunted Pioneers”.

When her husband James passed away in 1895, Ann continued to carve and run the business to the age of 90 when she finally put her chisel down.

Ann, James and many family members are buried at the Hill-Dunn Cemetery near their old homestead and next to Emigrant Lake. The land for the cemetery was donated by her father. Ann carved the headstones for her parents and many others that mark the grave sites in the cemetery. There is also a seven-foot-long piece of white marble that Ann carved at the age of 80 to honor volunteer soldiers that were killed during the Indian Wars.

A few pieces that can be seen in the Jacksonville Cemetery that were carved by the Russells and the Ashland Marble Works are: Jacob Ish, in Block 391, and George Funck, in Block 292, both in the I.O.O.F. section, as well as the monument placed at the grave site of Sophia Ann Love, in Block 443 in the Masonic section and the head stone of Gabriel Lemen, in the City section, Block 192.

[\(Return\)](#)