

**2010**

## STORIES FROM MEET THE PIONEERS

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

### 2010 – Year five

Judge Legrand Joseph Colville Duncan (also known as L.J.C.) and Permelia Lusk Thompson

Duncan

Judge Hiero Kennedy Hanna and Helena Hess Brentano Hanna

Charles Wesley Kahler and his sister Rebecca Kahler McDonough

Artenecia Riddle Chapman Merriman

Colonel James Napper Tandy Miller (also known as J.N.T.) and Elizabeth (Betsy) Ann Awbrey

Miller

John F. (Gunsmith) Miller and Mary Schmidt Miller

Jeremiah Nunan and Delia O'Grady Nunan

John Orth and Eleanor (Ellen) Hill Orth

William Turner and Emeline Morgan Overbeck Turner

# MEET THE PIONEERS

## 2010



### Character

Robertson Collins  
Judge Legrand Duncan  
Judge Legrand Duncan  
Helena Hanna  
Judge Hiero Hanna  
Eleanor Hill  
Eleanor Hill  
Charles Wesley Kahler  
Permelia Lusk  
Permelia Lusk  
Rebecca McDonough

### Player

Larry Smith  
Terry Erdmann  
Mark Millner\*  
Ann Wilton\*  
Steve Casaleggio\*  
Linda Otto\*  
Anne Peugh  
Robert Heltberg\*  
Constance Jesser  
Marcy McQuillan\*  
Shirley Blaul\*

### Character

Artenecia Merriman  
Betsy Ann Miller  
Col. James NT Miller  
John F. Miller  
Mary Schmidt Miller  
Delia O'Grady Nunan  
Jeremiah Nunan  
John Orth  
William Turner  
Emeline Turner

### Player

Carolyn Kingsnorth\*  
Mary Ann Carlson  
Steve Carlson  
Josh Phoenix\*  
Sandy Phoenix\*  
Vivienne Grant\*  
Robert Hight\*  
Jeff Blum\*  
Brian Nicholson\*  
Gail Nicholson

Character/Player in Shuttle Boarding Area: (picture not shown) Larry Smith as Robertson Collins.

\*Indicates Player in picture.

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**Judge Legrand Joseph Colville Duncan (also known as L. J. C.) and Permelia Lusk Thompson Duncan**

Legrand was born on November 1, 1818, in Blount County, Tennessee of Scottish ancestry. His family moved to Walker County, Georgia in 1834 where he helped his father to clear the land and build a home for the family. Time for study was squeezed in between farm chores. In 1835 Legrand acquired an 8<sup>th</sup> grade certificate, which was considered to be quite an accomplishment. As a young adult he taught school, first in Alabama and then in Mississippi.

In 1849, after realizing not much profit or reward was to be made as a schoolmaster and hearing the stories of gold being discovered in California, Legrand bid his family and friends farewell, and joined an expedition hoping to find his fortune in gold. They departed late in the season from Little Rock, Arkansas and crossed the plains to the Pacific Coast via Santa Fe, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles arriving in California in December. He spent that first winter mining in Mariposa County and the following summer along the Tuolumne without finding his fortune, but his health was impaired as a result of the heavy manual labor.

In 1850 he departed California on the schooner Elizabeth arriving in Portland, Oregon in November. Legrand was able to locate a land claim in Washington County and now without money accepted a job teaching school. In the fall of 1851 still weakened from the manual labor of mining combined with the winter rains and fog in Washington he decided to head south to Yreka, California for health reasons.

While in route during the spring and passing through the Rogue River Valley Legrand was impressed with the mild, pleasant temperature and beauty, and decided to settle in the valley. He was one of the earliest settlers in the Rogue Valley arriving late in 1851 and located a claim on Bear Creek, 12 miles SE of present-day Jacksonville. In January of 1852 gold was discovered at Rich Gulch in Jacksonville and within weeks the area was teeming with miners. Legrand continued mining in Josephine County and along Jackson Creek.

In 1853, as a result of all the miners arriving in the area, a number of Indian outbreaks were occurring. One such outbreak left Legrand severely injured and both men on either side of him dead. Following his recovery and the cessation of the Indian hostilities he mined on Jackson Creek until 1857. He sold his land claim on Bear Creek as it was required that in order to hold it, you had to live on the land, something he could not do and continue to mine.

In 1857 Legrand was a member of the convention that framed the constitution for the future State of Oregon. His signature is recorded on the original document.

On July 26, 1857, Legrand was married to Mrs. Permelia Lusk Thompson. Permelia was born December 20, 1818, in Newark, Wayne County, New York. Permelia was married to William Thompson on March 15, 1837. They had five children, four died in their infancy.

In 1852 William headed west in search of gold and leaving his wife Permelia and daughter Hattie behind to join him later. He pitched a tent on his Donation Land Claim in the Applegate in Jackson County, Oregon. He built a cabin and a year later sent word to his wife and daughter to join him in this beautiful land of evergreen mountains and rippling streams. William said: "All I lack now to complete my happiness is the arrival of my wife and little daughter."

Permelia and daughter Hattie joined William in July 1854. They came by sea making the Isthmus crossing, then up the coast from San Francisco to Crescent City, and finally crossing the coast range on horseback to William's donation land claim in the Applegate. Reportedly, they arrived before the letter Permelia had written to William telling him of their planned departure!

Permelia opened lodging for miners between "diggings," charging one dollar for a meal and two dollars to feed a horse. Little Hattie received a lot of attention as there were few children around in the early 1850's. During the winter of 1855-1856 William suffered a stroke brought on by over exertion, exposure and excitement that was caused by the Indian War of 1855. The family was forced to leave their home and join the other frightened settlers in Jacksonville. On August 8, 1856, William Thompson died after being near helpless for nearly a year. He was just shy of his forty-first birthday.

On July 26, 1857, the widow, Permelia Thompson was married to Legrand Duncan.

Legrand was elected Sheriff of Jackson County in 1858 and reelected in 1860 but was forced to resign in 1861 due to ill health. In 1860 a son, named Marvel, for Legrand's father, was born to the Duncans. Sadly, he only lived for six months and died on September 7, 1860.

In 1866 Legrand was elected County Judge and served for four years but declined a re-nomination. In this year the Duncans also built their new home on South First Street in Jacksonville which still stands today. The house is known as the "Judges House" as after Judge Duncan's death the home was purchased by Judge Hiero Hanna who later passed the home on to his son Judge Herbert Hanna.

In 1871 with the passing of Judge Shipley, Legrand was appointed by Governor Grover to fill the vacancy until the election in 1872. Following his retirement from public life he was listed in the Jackson County census as a "gentleman of leisure" under occupation.

Their daughter, Hattie, married Dr. Will Jackson, an early Jacksonville dentist who later relocated to Grants Pass.

Judge Duncan died on October 26, 1886, and Permelia Duncan died on November 2, 1895. Both are buried in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 218, Plots 7, and 8.

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### **Judge Hiero Kennedy Hanna and Helena Hess Brentano Hanna**

Hiero, who was of Scottish ancestry, was born on May 22, 1832, in Steuben County, New York. He had four brothers and one sister. His youth was characterized by a hard struggle for existence but like other men and women of the time, he took the adversity in his stride, and being a quick study, he managed to acquire a fairly good education.

At the age fourteen he was already supporting himself as a clerk in a general merchandise store in Bath, New York. In 1848, at the age of sixteen, he moved to Ohio and clerked in the recorder's office for a couple of years. While there he started hearing stories of the west and witnessed the steady stream of emigration headed towards the west coast.

In the spring of 1850 Hiero joined a wagon train bound for California. They only got as far as Salt Lake City before running out of provisions and had to wait until after the harvest was gathered before proceeding. Hiero waited about a month before joining four others with a wagon and two yoke oxen and proceeded to the coast and finally arrived in Hangtown, near Placerville, California. He mined there with more than average success. From there he made his way to the Yuba River and continued mining until 1858 when he made his way to San Francisco. His plan was to follow the miners and the latest strikes but instead he took a boat to Crescent City and later located to Waldo, Josephine County, Oregon.

Most miners at the time only carried the bare essentials on their back. However, for Hiero who dreamed of becoming a lawyer one day, the essentials also included volumes of law books which he brought overland with him and continued to haul around with him. They would prove to come in handy as he was elected Justice of the Peace for the Waldo District. Although he had not yet studied law, Hiero was elected District Attorney of Josephine County in 1870, serving two years. Before completing the term, he took up the study of law and was duly admitted to the bar in 1872, the same year he was re-elected District Attorney by a large majority. In the meantime, he started a general law practice in Jacksonville and in 1874 he was elected District Attorney for the third time. His jurisdiction covered Jackson, Josephine, Lake and Klamath Counties and, in the capacity of prosecuting attorney, he attended the first term of court held in Linkville, which today is Klamath Falls. He served in the capacity of District Attorney from 1870 until 1878.

Hiero was first married to Mary Teresa Agnes who died on November 9, 1871, at the age of thirty-six. He then married Laura E. Overbeck on December 8, 1873, and she died two years later on December 4, 1875, at the age of thirty-seven. There were no children from either marriage.

Hiero served as the City of Jacksonville's attorney for many years. In 1878 Governor W. W. Thayer appointed him to the bench. In 1880 he was duly elected Judge of the Circuit Court but resigned because of the meagerness of the salary. He did so with the understanding Judge Webster be appointed in his place.

On May 11, 1881, Judge Hanna married Mrs. Helena Hess Brentano. Helena was born on April 15, 1849 and was a native of Germany. At the time of their marriage Helena had two daughters from her marriage to Max Brentano, daughter Ollie was married and living in San Francisco and Rosa, who was still a young lady, continued to live at home. Helena's sister was Louisa Hess Muller the wife of Max Muller, one of Jacksonville's outstanding merchants. Helena and Louisa, along with their two sisters Alvina and Bertha, were members of Jacksonville's German colony and were prominent citizens of the town. Helena was also an artist of enviable skill who was featured in an article in the Oregon Sentinel of August 7, 1886. The story described her fine collection of original iridescent oil paintings on felt, satin, white velvet, tapestry and lustra. Apparently, she could produce an impressive scene on practically anything left lying around the sewing room.

The Hannas purchased the Judge Duncan house on South First Street in Jacksonville. Hiero and Helena would have four sons born to their marriage, William, Herbert, Leo and Grover. Son Grover Cleveland Hanna died in infancy on February 9, 1893, age three months.

Judge Hanna retired at the end of January 1910. When reporting to his office on his final day he was surprised by a collection of the members of the bar who had practiced before him in the courtroom. They presented him with a beautifully engraved watch. Judge Hanna was overcome with emotion and for a few moments was unable to reply.

He died on July 25, 1910. Helena, who was in Oakland, California being treated for a persistent physical problem, rushed home when hearing of her husband's illness, but arrived four hours after he died.

Helena died on November 7, 1911, in San Francisco, California

Judge Hiero Kennedy Hanna and Helena Hess Brentano Hanna are buried in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 141, Plots 6, and 7.

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### **Charles Wesley Kahler and his sister Rebecca Kahler McDonough**

Charles Wesley, or as he was known to his family and friends, Wesley or Wes, was born in McConnelsville, Ohio on November 4, 1840. On the last day of March 1852 his parents, William Kahler and Georgiana Johnson Kahler and their six children boarded a steamboat in McConnelsville and headed for St. Joseph, Missouri.

Following their arrival in St. Joseph, William purchased wagons and ox teams for the journey west to the Oregon Territory. They departed St. Joseph on May 6, and their route took them over the Oregon Trail to Fort Hall, down the Humboldt River across Nevada, into California near Mount Shasta, then north over the Siskiyous to Jacksonville. After a five month journey the Kahler family arrived in the Rogue River Valley on October 15, 1852.

Gold had been discovered in Jacksonville earlier in the year, so William engaged in mining for the next three years. In 1855 he took up a donation land claim near Fort Lane and at the foot of Table Rock. He would farm there for the next thirty years before returning to Jacksonville. Three more children would be born to William and Georgiana while living on the farm.

Wesley, the second born and eldest son of William and Georgiana Kahler, graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon at the age of twenty-four and began studying law with Jacksonville Attorney Orange Jacobs in 1865. He was admitted to the Oregon Bar Association in 1868 and became a partner with Edward Watson in a small office across from the courthouse.

Following the death of William T'Vault from smallpox on February 5, 1869, Wesley was asked to finish off Mr. T'Vault's term as District Attorney. He ran for County Judge in 1870 but was defeated by T.H.B. Shipley in a very close election. After completing his term as District Attorney Wesley became Justice of the Peace, the only public office he ever held. Oregon Governor E.Z. Moody offered Wesley the position of Circuit Judge in 1884 but he declined the offer.

Wesley had acquired a reputation of being one of the town's most widely respected and trusted lawyers. He also became a landholder of considerable acreage in Jackson County. One of the properties he purchased still stands today, his brick law office on North Third and California Streets. He had the original wooden building replaced with a brick one in 1886. His law library reportedly contained more than six-hundred volumes.

One of Wesley's clients was Gin Lin the successful Chinese gold-mining boss. Wesley and Peter Britt were among the few in the town who befriended the local Chinese population. In 1878 Wesley hired Chinese to work at his Palmer Creek hydraulic-mining operation located in the Applegate Valley. He helped them to find work and living quarters.

Wesley became so successful in all his business dealings that it got to the point where he didn't seem to care whether any new law business came his way or not; but when it did, he gave his most conscientious attention to it.

Charles Wesley Kahler, who never married, died on August 5, 1904, at the age of sixty-four. Upon his death he left the various properties and farms he owned throughout the area, along with over a thousand acres of property, to family members.

It was said that Wesley walked leisurely and erect, often with a cane, and was a complete gentleman—always cordial, gracious, quiet and easy going. He was always neatly dressed, usually in a black suit and wearing a Prince Albert style coat.

### **Rebecca Kahler McDonough**

Rebecca was the oldest of the children born to William and Georgiana Kahler. Born on October 4, 1838, in McConnelsville, Ohio she was fourteen years of age when she came west with her parents and four younger brothers and one sister. No doubt being the eldest child and a daughter, she was a big help to her mother caring for her siblings and doing chores during their journey crossing the plains in 1852.

The family arrived in the Rogue River Valley in the fall of 1852. The family lived in the Jacksonville area until 1855 when her parents took up a donation land claim near Fort Lane and at the foot of the Table Rock.

On August 18, 1855, Rebecca was married to James McDonough. She was just about to turn seventeen, and the groom was twenty-nine. James was a successful carpenter and was one of the two main carpenters who built the Methodist Church that her father William was so much a part of throughout his life in Oregon. The entire Kahler family attended the church. Perhaps Rebecca met James during the time he was constructing the church.

James later turned to farming and stock raising on a farm that he and Rebecca moved to after they wed. James would become known as one of the most advanced breeders of fine horses on the west coast. The McDonoughs would have seven children, six of whom lived to adulthood. Sarah was just eight years old when she died on April 30, 1865. Rebecca liked to share the fact that her first two children were born in the same years as her mother's last two children were born.

Rebecca was known as a "hospitable homemaker," and had "a table always laden with the best the land afforded." She was "always ready to help the strong or to lift the weak and helpless, few have ever lived that filled the noble self-sacrificing place of comfort in times of need." She cared for her parents as they aged and needed nursing and watching over and making their last days peaceful and happy. She did the same a short time later for her beloved husband James before his passing on June 8, 1901. Then three years later her brother Wes needed her care and once again her life centered on providing care for a loved one.

Rebecca Kahler McDonough died on October 26, 1907, at the age of sixty-nine and is buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 469, Plot 10.

Her brother Charles Wesley Kahler died on August 5, 1904, at the age of 64 and is buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 469, Plot 7.

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### **Artenecia Riddle Chapman Merriman**

Artenecia was born on October 11, 1830, in West Liberty, Ohio to William Riddle and Maximillia Bouseman Riddle. When she was eighteen years old, she married John Chapman and they made their home in Springfield, Illinois.

In 1851 her parents decided to make the journey overland and go west to Oregon. Just five days before they were set to depart, Artenecia's husband John died, leaving her alone with a one-year-old son to care for. She decided to join her family and cross the plains to Oregon.

The Riddle family, along with their daughter Artenecia and grandson John, left Illinois on May 22, headed across the Missouri River and followed the southern route in wagons drawn by oxen. Artenecia recalled traveling days on end without seeing civilization or having a proper trail to follow. There were skirmishes with Indians but, fortunately, only one attack resulted in one of the members of the train being shot in the arm. It was slow going and, at times, it took a day and half to go a little as nine miles. The train was made up of about forty men and only a few women.

The Riddle family, Artenecia and her son John, finally arrived in Douglas County, Oregon on September 16, 1851. The area where they settled would later be named Riddle in honor of Artenecia's father William Riddle.

On February 2, 1853, Artenecia married William H. Merriman in Douglas County. William and his family were part of the Constant wagon train of which his brother-in-law Isaac Constant was Captain. They departed from Illinois in 1852. William suffered two tragedies during the crossing. First, his wife Mary, who was ailing before the trip began, died shortly into the crossing. Then his son died from drinking poisoned milk. William and his young daughter, Auletta, finished the trip and settled in Douglas County. Both had a child from their previous marriages, Artenecia's son John, and William's daughter Auletta.

William, a skilled blacksmith and wagon maker built a cradle for his wife to use for their first baby, Lucinda, who was born in 1854. Over the years, Artenecia would rock each of the fourteen children that followed Lucinda in the handsome cradle.

In 1857 the Merrimans moved to the Rogue River Valley where William purchased 120 acres and began farming the fertile land. Hoping to attract and meet the needs of the local residents and miners, he opened a blacksmith shop and built wagons. Artenecia stayed busy raising the children and maintaining the household. Artenecia, who was fluent in the Chinook language, was often called upon to act as an interpreter in meetings between government representatives and the Indians.

William H. Merriman died on September 18, 1877, at the age of fifty-two. He was buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery in the City Section, Block 249, Plot 2.

Artenecia, who was used to hardships, kept her family together and cared for the needs of her children.

Over the years, Artenecia was often asked to be interviewed about the early days of Oregon, her trip across the plains and pioneer lifestyle. She even appeared in a film about pioneers at the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. While she was unable to make the trip, a granddaughter told her how surprised she was to see Artenecia's face on the screen as she entered the Oregon building at the Exposition.

Artenecia died on January 10, 1917, at the age of eighty-seven. She was a widow for forty years. During that time, she enjoyed visiting and spending time with her children and their families. At the time of her passing, eleven of her children were still living, as well as her stepdaughter from her marriage to William Merriman. Thirty-seven grandchildren and a number of the fourth generation of Merriman's remained to honor her.

Artenecia Riddle Chapman Merriman is buried in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 249, Plot 1.

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### **Colonel James Napper Tandy Miller (also known as J.N.T.) and Elizabeth (Betsy) Ann Awbrey Miller**

James N.T. Miller was born in Hardin County, Kentucky on October 10, 1826. He came west with his family in 1845 in a company consisting of some eighty wagons. They came by way of Meek's Cutoff and arrived in Oregon in the fall and located on Sauvie's Island along the Columbia River, where they built a home.

In 1849 James, inspired by both adventure and the desire to develop his own resources headed towards the gold fields of California. He led a company of men from the Willamette Valley through the in-land link of valleys to Sacramento where they were quite successful with mining and making considerable money. Unfortunately, while returning to Oregon and while forging a swollen stream, they lost some \$20,000 in gold which was not recovered.

On August 22, 1853, James married Elizabeth (Betsy) Ann Awbrey in Lane County, Oregon. Betsy was born on December 7, 1832, in Ray County, Missouri, and was one of twelve children. In 1840 her family moved to Polk County, Iowa. Ten years later they were on the move again. In the spring of 1850, the family headed across the plains over the Barlow Route, crossing the Cascade Mountains in the late fall and spending the first winter at the Holcomb settlement near Oregon City. This is where Betsy reportedly met her future husband, James Miller. In 1851 the Awbrey family moved down to Lane County and located near Eugene.

James fought in the Indian Wars of 1852-1853 and also in 1855-1856. He was at the Battle of the Table Rocks and helped rescue Captain Smith. James also acted as an interpreter for Indian Agent Skinner at the peace conference at Big Bar on the Rogue River in 1853.

Following James and Betsy's marriage they lived on Sauvie's Island before moving to Jacksonville in 1854. Together they took up a Donation Land Claim of some two-hundred and eighteen acres, just north of the present-day city limits and out on North Oregon Street. The Millers' large farm had an attractive and comfortable home in an elevated location that faced east and overlooked most of the farm, and also those in the heart of the valley. The outbuildings were ample and always kept in good condition.

In addition to the farm Miller established a vineyard, reportedly one of the first in the Rogue Valley. The vineyard which was located on the hillside behind the family residence covered some thirty-five to forty acres. It contained mostly blue mission grapes which James made into fine wine and vinegar. Residents of Jacksonville and elsewhere enjoyed the delicious grapes and would stop by the farm to purchase them. Anyone appearing at the door with a basket or pail would be told to "go out into the vineyard, and get all you want, and stop at the house as you leave." The usual charge would range from twenty-five to seventy-five cents depending on the size of the basket or pail that the customers brought with them. There were never any questions as to how much the customer might have consumed while filling their containers!

Across the road and to the east of the home and vineyard was a wonderful orchard of mixed fruits, about ten or twelve acres in size. This was surrounded by sixty or more acres of fields

used for producing hay crops to feed the stock in winter. On the hillside at the back of and to the west of the residence and barns, was a wooded tract of eighty plus acres which provided good pastureland for the milk cows and other stock for a good portion of the year.

Approximately thirty-two acres of land that makes up the current Jacksonville Cemetery was once a part of the J.N.T. and Betsy Millers' original Donation Land Claim.

Miller was a member of the lower house of the Legislature in 1862 and served as State Senator from 1866 to 1870 in the Oregon Legislature.

Sadly, in 1870 the Millers lost four of their eight children. In January three died within days of one another, and the fourth child died four months later in June, all due to illness.

In 1871 as Chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee, he started the Democratic Newspaper, but it failed for lack of support and soon passed into other hands. He was also elected as the first President of the Southern Oregon District Agricultural Society.

During the Modoc War of 1872-1873 Governor Grover appointed James Commissary General of Volunteers with the rank of Colonel. His men thought highly of him, and he was known for his conservative judgment.

J.N.T. Miller was a quiet and handsome sort of man, mild and dignified but very interesting. He was always dressed better than most farmers and always impressed one. He kept a beautiful black saddlehorse, which appeared to take great pride in its rider. When Miller rode into town in his usual neat black suit, with beautifully polished black boots with his trouser legs stuffed inside, he always appeared as the victorious Army General on parade.

Colonel J.N.T. Miller died on September 18, 1900, at the age of seventy-four.

As was required of many Pioneer women, Betsy Ann Miller looked after her children and cared for the home and farm during the many absences of her husband. She was also a member of the State and the Southern Oregon Pioneer Societies and the Jacksonville Grange. Betsy was twice a Matron of Adarel Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Jacksonville, and was the third Worthy Grand Matron, O.E.S. of Oregon. She was present as a delegate when the Grand Chapter of O.E.S. was organized in Roseburg in 1889. Betsy was a wonderful and gifted speaker, something she inherited from her father. She was called upon many times to address audiences in her years of devoted lodge work. The frontier schools of Missouri and Iowa where Betsy grew up offered little opportunities for education but despite that, she was well spoken and wrote several poems of merit. The ambition of her life was to do literary work. She stressed the importance of a good education to her children.

Betsy Miller died in February of 1918 in Portland, Oregon at the age of eighty-six.

Colonel James Napper Tandy Miller and Elizabeth Ann Awbrey Miller are buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 411, Plots 6 and 8.

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### **John F. (Gunsmith) Miller and Mary Schmidt Miller**

John was born on May 31, 1830, in Bavaria, Germany where he apprenticed and learned the trade of a gunsmith. Hearing of all the wonderful opportunities in America, John immigrated to the United States. He left Germany in 1850 crossing the Atlantic Ocean and arrived in New York where he first settled and then in New Jersey.

It was while in New Jersey that he met Mary Schmidt, a young lady who had also immigrated from Germany. Mary was born on August 25, 1835, in Baden, Germany and became an orphan at the age of ten. In 1853 she decided to come to the United States to make her home.

John and Mary were married on June 5, 1855. Following their marriage the young couple relocated to Burlington, Iowa, where John became a partner in a business enterprise. After nearly five years, John and Mary decided that the northwest offered better opportunities and disposed of their interests and made preparations for the journey west. In April 1860 they departed Iowa and five months later arrived in Jacksonville, Oregon.

John and Mary would be parents to eight children, four sons and four daughters.

By 1860 Jacksonville was a thriving gold mining town and the most important city in Oregon and northern California. After setting up shop as a gunsmith, a trade very much in demand, John quickly prospered. His shop, which he named Hunters' Emporium, sold firearms and related materials and by 1862 was very successful. Later he expanded the shop to include a line of hardware and sporting goods. Soon John started investing in mining operations and in real estate. In all his undertakings John was most ably assisted by Mary, through her advice on business matters and through her capable and efficient supervision of household affairs.

The Millers had a small but comfortable home a short distance from John's shop and store. However, as he continued to succeed and become affluent, he had a large two-story home built in 1868 on the corner of Main and Third Streets in Jacksonville. The house was a "catalog house" with plans purchased from the "Cottage Souvenir" a collection of two hundred designs of "Artistic Dwellings by Architect George Barber". Many outstanding shrubs and plants were in the beautiful grounds that surrounded the home when it was built.

The family was well respected and very much a part of Jacksonville's social scene at the time. They were also an important part of Jacksonville's German community and were good friends with many of the town's prominent families.

Mary attended church regularly but never affiliated with any one denomination. She was a Charter member of the Eastern Star and active in the community. She was always ready to aid the poor and comfort the sick. Mary became known as Grandma Miller and always had a kind word for everyone.

In the fall of 1874 John moved his shop and store into his new brick building. It was reported to be one of the neatest and handiest establishments of the kind in Oregon. With the additional room John was able to add to his already impressive inventory of materials available for purchase.

John died on April 21, 1893, at the age of sixty-two. He left his wife and family very well off financially. He was regarded as a man of upright principles, sound integrity and absolutely loyal to his friends.

Mary died on July 16, 1921, at the age of eighty-six. Her life was devoted to her husband, children and friends all of whom held her in affection and esteem.

John F. Gunsmith Miller and Mary Schmidt Miller are buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 268.

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### **Jeremiah Nunan and Delia O'Grady Nunan**

Jeremiah, or Jerry, as his family and friends called him, was born in Ireland in the early 1840's. As so many did at the time, Jerry's family immigrated to the United States seeking a better life. He arrived in Jacksonville in the mid 1860's, most likely in search of gold which was first discovered in Jacksonville in 1852. The results if any, of his gold mining days are unknown.

In 1870 Jerry worked as a saddler. Early the following year he opened Jerry Nunan's Saddlery Store on the corner of California and Oregon Streets in Jacksonville. Later that year he was faced with some additional competition when Henry Judge, who had just returned to the area, opened a saddle shop in Jacksonville. Judge had previously operated a saddle and harness business in Jacksonville before selling the business and moving to San Francisco in 1868.

Despite being business competitors, Henry and Jerry became good friends. Through their friendship Henry's wife Annie introduced Jerry to her sister Delia O'Grady. Jeremiah Nunan and Delia O'Grady became Mr. and Mrs. Nunan on June 3, 1872. They were wed in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jacksonville and were married by Father Blanchett with Henry and Anna Judge as their witnesses.

Delia O' Grady was born in 1847 in Ireland. She and her family were also immigrants to America. Delia was living in Oakland, California when she met Jerry Nunan. They would have five children, three daughters and two sons.

Approximately a week after the wedding Henry and Jerry joined forces and formed a partnership in the saddler business. Their store was located on California Street where the present-day Bella Union is located. In 1874 they purchased some property and built a new store one block away. Later that year a fire destroyed much of the downtown including their new building. The partners re-opened in another building temporarily and built a new structure next to the present-day U.S. Hotel site. Also, in 1874 Jerry purchased a home on 5th Street for the cost of one thousand dollars for his family.

In 1876 Henry Judge moved his family back to California with Jerry taking over the entire business. Judge returned to Jacksonville two years later and offered to buy the business. Jerry happily agreed, as he was looking at other investment opportunities. Also, in 1876 Nunan was elected a town trustee and in 1881 served as the City's recorder.

In 1881 Jerry opened a mercantile business in Jacksonville. He sold clothing and hats for men and boys, fancy and dress goods, California-made boots and shoes, hosiery and ribbons, stationery, cigars and tobacco, crockery and glassware, groceries of all kinds and canned goods. Jerry was known to trade fresh farm produce for goods at the store.

Jeremiah also invested in mining operations, real estate and he sold fire insurance.

During this time Delia kept busy running the household and caring for their children, Josephine born in 1873, son Edward born in 1875, daughter Francis (Fanny) born in 1877, daughter Ella Rose born in 1878 and son Charles who was born in 1881.

In 1892 Jeremiah, who was now one of the wealthiest residents of Jacksonville, wanted a home representing his success. So, as a special Christmas present to his wife Delia he contracted for a sixteen-room Queen Anne style home to be built. The design was by architect George F. Barber and was from his "The Cottage Souvenir" catalog. Delia was very excited with the plans for the new home which included five bedrooms and even a sewing room for her. She and a daughter traveled to San Francisco to purchase furniture to fill all the rooms. The Nunan family moved into their new home late in 1892. Electricity was installed in the home in 1909, which was followed by indoor plumbing.

Their joy was short lived as on February 11, 1895 their eldest son Edward died some twelve hours after falling off a horse. He was only nineteen years old. Then tragedy struck again on September 19, 1898, when their daughter Ella Rose who was twenty years of age died while in San Francisco. She reportedly died from the effects of eating ice cream that had stood in a tin too long.

Nunan retired in 1911 turning his mercantile business over to son Charles. In 1913 he and Delia traded their beloved home for property in California and moved there. On a visit to his son Charles in 1916, Jerry Nunan killed himself. His death was attributed to "temporary insanity, caused by ill health." He died on May 17, 1916, at the age of seventy-six.

Delia O' Grady Nunan died in November 1941 in Santa Clara, California at home at the age of ninety- three.

Jeremiah Nunan is buried in the Catholic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block C1, Plot 4. Delia's remains were not brought back to Jacksonville for burial in the family block.

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### **John Orth and Eleanor (Ellen) Hill Orth**

John Orth was born on May 14, 1834, in Bavaria, Germany. He left home at the age of eighteen and immigrated to the United States where he first settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. While there he learned the trade of a butcher, something that would greatly benefit him later in life. In 1856 he heard the call of the west and left Cincinnati, traveling by way of the Isthmus of Panama, he arrived in Oregon. He first settled in Eugene and later moved down to the Rogue River Valley and Jacksonville.

By 1860 John had established his own butcher shop in Jacksonville on Oregon Street and near the corner of California Street. His slaughterhouse was located three or four blocks west of his shop headed toward the Applegate. In no time John had a very successful business going. Residents and miners alike were very grateful to have access to good meat. His sausages were considered by his loyal customers to be the best ever made. At the time, things such as the beef hearts, livers, and kidneys were not sold, but John would just give those to his customers that asked for them.

On March 2, 1863, John Orth married Eleanor (Ellen) Hill in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jacksonville. Ellen was born in County Antrim, Ireland on May 16, 1841. Her family immigrated from Ireland to America settling first in San Mateo, California. The family later moved to Jacksonville where Ellen's father was engaged in carpentering. The marriage would produce nine children being born to John and Ellen, four sons and five daughters, though two sons died in infancy. Following the death of her son John in 1871, Ellen spent some time in St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland. She was suffering from depression, most likely the result of the deaths of two children within a short period of time.

John had become a well-respected Jacksonville businessman. In addition to selling meats, his butcher shop also supplied rawhides to David Linn who used them in his furniture making business. The rawhides were put to use as the seats of many chairs and rockers that Linn made and were needed in large quantities. As his business prospered, John purchased a two-hundred and seventy-six acre farm two miles east of Jacksonville on the Ashland Road, where the family lived until moving back into town in 1880.

In 1872 John built a large two-story brick building on the site of his original butcher shop. It has been known ever since as the Orth Building. In addition to serving as the Orth Butcher Shop, it has been a mercantile, a law office, a dance hall and athletic club to name but a few.

John served on Jacksonville's City Council for a number of years and was elected County Treasurer in 1878.

In 1880 John had a large brick two story home built for his family on the corner of Main and Third Streets. When the home was completed, the family left the farm and moved back into Jacksonville. Both the Orth Building and the family home still stand and remain in use today.

John died on June 18, 1890, at the age of fifty-six, and Ellen died on August 12, 1896 at the age of fifty-five.

Both are buried in the Catholic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block E5, Plots 9 and 10.

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### **William Turner and Emeline Morgan Overbeck Turner**

William was born on July 15, 1828, in Belfast, Ireland and was only four years old when his family immigrated to the United States. The family settled in Utica, New York where William received a rudimentary education. In 1846 the family relocated to Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

In 1850 he bid his family farewell and headed west to find his way in this new land. After arriving in California, he mined the gold fields for around fifteen years in between clerking. He was appointed assistant federal assessor for the northern counties of California by President Lincoln but resigned the position in 1865 to go to Oregon. William first settled in Salem where he was elected Assistant Clerk of the State Legislature.

In January of 1866, William Turner came to Jackson County in the Rogue River Valley and took charge of the telegraph office in Jacksonville and also became editor of the Oregon Sentinel, the second oldest newspaper in the state of Oregon. During his editorial career he also contributed articles to leading magazines. His writings "were copied far and wide by the press of this country." According to a friend: "As a writer he was ready, fluent, fearless, and versatile. His bright flashes of wit, his keen strokes of sarcasm, and his deep notes of pathos, never failed to win him a smile for his wit, a wince for his sarcasm, and a tear for his pathos."

On April 18, 1867, he married Mrs. Emeline Morgan Overbeck, a widow with two sons. Emeline was born on December 29, 1839, in Pleasant Hill, Cass County, Missouri and crossed the plains with her parents in 1852. Her father died along the way. Her mother settled in Yamhill County, Oregon where she met and married Mr. Chrisman, a large stock raiser. Soon after their marriage they moved to Jackson County and settled on a farm east of Bear Creek. Emeline attended and received a fair education in the primitive schools of the day. In June 1858 she was married to Henry Overbeck a successful miner on Jackson Creek. They settled on a farm just a few miles south of Jacksonville where two sons were born to them, Charles and Frederick. Henry's health soon began to fail and in June 1864 he died. Following his death Emeline moved into Jacksonville where she met and married William Turner. With William she gave birth to a son, Thomas, and two daughters, Susie and Marbella.

In 1877 William served a time as Indian Agent for the Malheur Reservation in Klamath County. On one of his trips away from home, an absence of several months, he rode nearly two thousand miles on horseback in Idaho, Washington Territories and Eastern Oregon. Then in 1883 he was appointed at the insistence of Republicans and Democrats alike, to the position of storekeeper and United States gauger for Southern Oregon. He had to resign in the fall of 1886 due to failing health. On June 8, 1880, daughter Marbella died, she was just six years old.

William Turner died on March 19, 1887, at the age of fifty-eight. His twenty-two-year-old son Thomas took his own life on October 1, 1891.

Emeline Morgan Overbeck Turner died December 27, 1893, at the age of fifty-four.

William and Emeline are buried in the I.O.O.F. section of the Jacksonville Cemetery Block 338.