

2007

STORIES FROM MEET THE PIONEERS

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

2007 – Year Two

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MEET THE PIONEERS

2007



Character

Player

Character

Player

Francis Louise Barnes
 Captain James Barnes
 Mary Ann Chambers
 Carolyn Hoffman
 Mary Hoffman
 William Hoffman
 Gustav Karewski
 Johanna Karewski
 Johanna Karewski
 Elizabeth Ann Klippel
 Henry Klippel

Liz Braislin
 Arild Barrett
 Carolyn Kingsnorth*
 Shirley Blaul*
 Allie Hartman*
 Dan Winterburn
 Steve Casaleggio*
 Marilyn Garner*
 Mary Ann Carlson
 Marcy McQuillan
 Steve Carlson*

Elinore Jane Kubli
 Elinore Jane Kubli
 Kaspar Kubli
 Sophia Harris Love
 Louise Mueller
 Max Mueller
 Elizabeth Ross
 John Ross
 Rhonda T'Vault
 William T'Vault

Peggy Peffley
 Dawna Curler*
 Tony Hess*
 Constance Jesser*
 Sandy Harvey*
 Josh Harvey*
 Ann Wilton*
 Larry Smith*
 Margaret LaPlante
 Robert Hight*

Character/Player in Shuttle Boarding Area: (picture not shown) Robert Heltberg as Peter Britt; Teri Gieg as Madame Jeanne Holt; Mary Ann Ramsden as Jane McCully; Wes Hartman as Rev. Moses Williams.

* Indicates Player in picture.

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Captain James T. Barnes and his brother Daniel Parker Barnes

James was born in 1819 and raised on a farm in Indiana. His younger brother Daniel, who was born in 1824 wanted to escape farming and seek adventure in the west. He travelled by wagon train and arrived in the Yamhill County of Oregon just in time to become a part of the Oregon Mounted Militia. They were rushed to Eastern Oregon to fight the Cayuse Indians who were charged with the Whitman massacre in 1843.

Daniel returned to civilian life and joined the rush to California upon the news of gold being discovered at Sutter's Fort. He was quite successful at mining and returned to Oregon with over \$2,000.

James left the farm in 1846 and joined the regular army to fight in the Mexican War. After the war ended in 1848, he travelled to Oregon and joined his brother Daniel, who was now back with the Oregon Mounted Militia. Because of his military experience he was made a Captain of an advanced scout patrol. Their job was to get as close as possible to the Indian camps to learn what the Indians were planning to do. James and Daniel fought in the Rogue River Indian Wars until 1857.

Daniel was a successful mercantile businessman in Lafayette, near the present-day city of McMinnville. He also partnered with James raising stock in the area of Goose Lake and Sprague River. James bought into the Applegate Quartz mine and became very successful. Reportedly by 1870, he was paying taxes on a yearly income of \$7,500. In today's money that is approximately \$140,000.

Captain James T. Barnes died on May 18, 1889, at 69 years, 7 months and 13 days following a long illness. He is buried in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 277 Plot 10. The large ornate memorial that marks his grave site was made by James C. Whipp who owned and operated the Jacksonville Marble Works. It is made of Italian marble and features three stacked rifles with the inscription "Rest Soldier Rest."

Daniel Parker Barnes died on October 26, 1896, at his home in Gold Hill, Oregon at the age of 73. He is buried next to James in the Jacksonville Cemetery, City Section Block 277 Plot 9.

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Mary Ann Harris Chambers and her daughter Ann Sophia Harris Love

Mary Ann Young was born in Knox County, Tennessee on January 15, 1822. Her family later moved to Lafayette County, Missouri. She had just turned twenty-one when she married George William Harris on February 9, 1843. Their daughter Ann Sophia was born on February 18, 1844, and son David followed in February 1846.

George and Mary Ann Harris, along with their daughter Sophia, and son David, made their way west to Oregon in 1852, first settling in the Willamette region of Oregon. In July of 1855 the family moved down to just north of Grants Pass and about forty miles north of Jacksonville. They settled into a cabin that was located in the little valley along the main line of travel.

On October 9, a band of some fifteen to twenty angry Indians ambushed and murdered the Wagner family who lived just a few miles from the Harris cabin. George Harris was unaware of the approaching Indians and was busy working on his place. His young son David, who was nearly nine, was out working in the fields with Frank Reed, a friend and hired hand. Mary Ann and Sophia were by the door of the cabin washing clothes.

Suddenly George saw the Indians approaching and seeing their war paint, yelled to his wife and daughter to follow him into the house. After pushing his wife and daughter through the doorway he was struck by a volley of shots that were fired by the Indians.

Mary Ann, despite being confused and full of terror maintained her self control listening to her husband's directions as he lay on the floor badly bleeding from his wounds. Mary Ann took the pistol from George's belt, got the rifle and double barrel shotgun while Sophia gathered the powder horn, caps, shot, cartridges and paper wads. Mary Ann then rushed upstairs where she began rapidly firing at the Indians through an opening in the chinking of the wall.

Fortunately, George Harris had the foresight to have prepared a large supply of cartridges for a possible emergency and Mary Ann was brave and smart enough to quickly load and reload the guns, firing them into the trees where the Indians were concealed. Mary Ann spent the next few hours running between the two floors firing at the Indians who remained hidden in the brush. They most likely thought the cabin was well guarded not realizing it was one woman holding down the fort.

Sometime in the early afternoon George Harris died. Later that same afternoon Sophia was shot in the arm. She managed to bandage it with cloth from her dress and continued to help her mother. Late that night and after the Indians retreated Mary Ann ventured outside to get water to clean and dress Sophia's wound. Fearing that the Indians would return in the morning she and Sophia fled the cabin to a nearby grove of trees and hid. It was a long cold night protecting and caring for Sophia while filled with concern for David.

In the morning Mary Ann carefully looked out of their hiding place and saw an approaching detachment of military volunteers. Mrs. Harris, carrying Sophia, eagerly came out of their hiding place to greet them.

The rescuers immediately provided care to Mrs. Harris and her daughter. They buried George Harris and started the search for young David.

Every ravine, hollow and thicket for miles around the Harris place was searched but they found no trace of David. No trace of David or what may have happened to him ever surfaced. The remains of Mr. Reed, the Harris's friend and hired hand, were found one year after the tragedy.

Mary Ann and Sophia were taken to Jacksonville where they would make their home. On February 23, 1860 and at the age of sixteen, Sophia Harris married John S. Love, a highly respected and successful citizen of Jacksonville. John had come to Jacksonville from Pennsylvania in 1853 and in partnership with John Bilger, established a tin and hardware business. He was also involved with Jacksonville's Pioneer government and was among the first to serve as a town trustee. John also was a part of establishing the town plat, the recorder's office and the fire station. The Loves would have four children and built a new home on their property on Third Street near the Beekman Bank. This new home replaced a cabin that they lived in when John and Sophia first married.

On September 18, 1867, just shortly after they moved into their new home, John Love fell ill and died. He was just thirty-seven years old leaving his widow Sophia and four children. Sadly, Sophia and her youngest daughter, Maggie, both died sixteen months later from smallpox. Sophia passed away on January 16, 1869, and little Maggie who was three years of age, on January 30, 1869.

On February 24, 1863, eight years after the death of her husband George Harris, Mary Ann married Aaron Chambers and moved into his home just outside Jacksonville and what is now called Central Point. After the death of her daughter Sophia and her granddaughter Maggie, Mary Ann and Aaron took in Sophia's three other children to raise. Then on September 13, 1869 Aaron Chambers passed away making Mary Ann a widow once more.

Mary Ann Harris Chambers died of pneumonia on February 17, 1882. She was sixty-one years old.

Mary Ann Harris Chambers and her daughter Ann Sophia Harris Love are buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 443 in Plot 9 and Plot 3

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William and Caroline Barbara Shafer Hoffman and daughter Mary Henrietta Hoffman

William was born in Baltimore, Maryland on September 7, 1801. He attended both German and American schools and began work as a grocery clerk at the age of thirteen. Having held positions in the mercantile business in towns in Maryland and Ohio, and becoming a partner in a firm in Cincinnati, he had the opportunity to open his own store in Attica, Indiana in 1832. Caroline Shafer was born on November 29, 1813, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. She was of German ancestry and was considered to be well educated beyond elementary schooling and was mostly self-taught.

William met and married Caroline Shafer in 1836. They were considered to be well suited for one another in temperaments, backgrounds and aspirations. Both were members of the German Reformed church and a year after their marriage they established a church of that same denomination in Attica, Indiana. William, who had been involved and dedicated to the church since his teens, was selected as ruling elder. The family, which now included six daughters, remained in Attica, where William served as county recorder for twelve years before moving to Covington, Maryland. In Covington, Caroline and William organized the New School Presbyterian Church with William being elected a ruling elder.

In early 1853, at the suggestion of her brother-in-law Dr. Henry McKinnell, William and Caroline decided to move to the far west due to Caroline's severe asthma condition. So, in April of 1853, the Hoffman family, William, Caroline and their six daughters along with William's two unmarried sisters, a married sister and her husband Dr. McKinnell, and seven hired hands departed Covington, Maryland for the six-month journey across the plains.

William kept a daily journal while making their trip west, revealing their determination, dedication and faith which had to be demonstrated each and every day of their long journey. After six months of traveling they arrived in Ashland, Oregon on October 30, 1853, and the next day arrived in Jacksonville. They settled into an old cabin located approximately six miles from Jacksonville. With so many family members to house, William, Caroline, their six daughters, William's two sisters and the McKinnells, they used two covered wagons from their trip as extra bedrooms by placing them at each side of the small cabin. The six Hoffman girls used the attic in the cabin as their bedroom which they reached by a ladder.

In 1855, after trying his hand at farming William moved the family to Jacksonville where he purchased land where the TouVelle house now stands. He had a rough cabin constructed on the site to serve as temporary housing. Ten years later the cabin was torn down and a large frame building with Gothic features and facing Oregon Street was constructed.

While William served as County Auditor and Justice of the Peace under the Territorial Government, Caroline was kept busy running a house and overseeing to the needs of her family. In 1859, when Oregon obtained Statehood, he became County Clerk. He also acted as U.S. Commissioner, land agent, and represented several life insurance companies. Both William and Caroline were instrumental in organizing and supporting Jacksonville's Presbyterian Church. They were also members of the Pioneer Society of Southern Oregon.

William Hoffman died on November 14, 1885 at the age of eighty-four years old and Caroline Barbara Hoffman, who came west for health reasons, died on September 9, 1900 at the age 86 years and ten months. They witnessed a lot in their lives and remained ideal partners for life. Their daughters all married prominent men and contributed greatly to the history of Jacksonville and Southern Oregon.

The Hoffman's are buried in the family Block in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery, Block 220, William in Plot 9 and Caroline beside him in Plot 10.

Mary Henrietta Hoffman

Mary was the oldest of the Hoffman daughters and was born on June 26, 1837, in Attica, Indiana. She was just fifteen years of age when her parents William and Caroline and siblings headed west across the plains in April 1853. Being the oldest sister Mary was no doubt kept very busy helping her mother care for the younger children: Julia Elizabeth 14, Ann Sophia 11, Emma Arilia 9, Florence Ella 5, and Kate Freeman age 3.

After arriving in Southern Oregon, the family settled into a small rough cabin about six miles from Jacksonville. Given the open warfare that broke out between the Rogue Indians and the local settlers they were often forced to take cover at a neighbor's fortified home. Family history suggests that Mary may have met her future husband, Jacksonville farmer George Vining during one of these Indian alarms.

In 1854, Mary opened a one room schoolhouse near Talent, Oregon where she was able to put her private education to good use. Her students, twelve in number, met in a cabin with a dirt floor. There were no desks just crude benches made out of slabs of wood. Each textbook that the students used was different, but Mary was able to give them an introduction to the three R's. Tuition was paid by way of vegetables and poultry. It wasn't long until the school had forty pupils in the first to fifth grades and making Mary the first teacher in the first school in Southern Oregon. Her teaching career was short lived as on December 31, 1855, Mary married George Vining.

Mary Henrietta Hoffman Vining

The newlyweds soon moved to Kirbyville, a mining camp in Josephine County in Oregon where George built a store and hotel. While George ran the store Mary was in charge of the hotel and kitchen. Three children would be born to the couple while living in Kirbyville, Kate, Millie and Frank. In 1864, the family moved to Albany where George became briefly involved in Oregon politics and a second son, William joined the family. The Vining family next moved to Franklin, Washington Territory where George had acquired another store. Three more sons were born, Ralph, Robert, and Irving. A daughter Emma would join the family later on.

Tragically in 1874, Mary found herself a single parent when her husband George, and the father of her eight children, was killed when his fog-bound ship collided with another vessel off Cape Flattery on the Washington coast and drowning everyone on board. George was taking a shipment of merchandise to San Francisco. Mary was only thirty-eight years old, penniless and had eight children to support.

Mary moved her family back to Southern Oregon, most likely to be closer to her family, and in 1877 purchased a small hotel in Ashland and operated it as a boardinghouse. Mary was much admired and became an honored resident of Ashland.

Mary Henrietta Hoffman Vining died on January 12, 1933 at the age of ninety-four and is buried in the Ashland Cemetery. She was among the oldest of Southern Oregon's living pioneer women when she passed.

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Gustav Karewski and Johanna Kruger Levy Karewski

Gustav was born in 1826 in Germany and came to America around 1850. He first settled in New Orleans where he worked for Benit Brothers Merchants. Like so many others hearing about the gold to be had in California, Gustav headed west in hopes of striking it rich. He arrived in the Sacramento Valley in 1851.

The year 1855 found Gustav in Oregon and living in the Applegate Valley. He had purchased some land and became a farmer while continuing to pursue mining and still hoping to strike it rich.

By 1869 Gustav opened his own store in Jacksonville. Behind the main store he had a large stone and brick building constructed and named it Karewski's Agriculture Implements Barn. He now could provide the local farmers with all the latest in farming machinery.

On April 18, 1869 his very close friend Bernard Levy died suddenly at the age of forty-nine. His young widow, Johanna age thirty-five, was left with four daughters, ranging in age from two to ten years to raise on her own. Gustav became a friend to Johanna offering her support and advice. Eventually they became very close and were married.

In the 1880's Gustav operated a flour mill on South Third Street in Jacksonville. In addition to the flour mill, his store and the Agriculture Implements Barn, he still operated a seventy-two acre farm and orchards as well. Gustav had become quite a successful Jacksonville businessman.

Gustav sold his store and the Agriculture Implements Barn in 1883 but continued to run the flour mill and his farm until he died on November 20, 1890. Johanna once again a widow died on June 28, 1903.

The Karewskis were one of only three Jewish Pioneer families that remained in Jacksonville long after others left the area for cities like San Francisco and Portland.

Gustav and Johanna are buried in the Jewish Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 12 in Plots 13 and 14.

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Henry and Elizabeth Ann Bigham Klippel

Henry Klippel was born on December 11, 1833, in Wickenheim, Germany. In 1837 his parents, along with Henry and his two older brothers, Philip and Adam, migrated to America and settled near Cincinnati, Ohio. A younger brother, Jacob, was born in Ohio.

Following the death of his father when Henry was fifteen, the family moved to St. Joseph, Missouri. The City of St. Joseph was one of the last outposts on the journey westward and was filled with much activity and excitement filled with stories of the riches to be made digging for gold in the west. Henry and two of his brothers, Philip and Jacob, crossed the plains in 1851 arriving in the Willamette Valley in August of that year.

Henry took a job on a ferry boat to raise money in order to purchase the necessary equipment and supplies to start mining. Like so many others seeking their fortune he headed south driving an ox team that he been hired to do, and arrived in Yreka, California in December of 1851. Yreka at the time was a lively little mining camp filled with saloon talk of rich strikes and instant wealth. After trying his hand at mining at a number of sites he gave up and headed north and arrived in Jacksonville in February 1852.

Making Jacksonville his home Henry continued to mine with some success, but also became fond of his new home and got involved in the affairs of the townspeople. In 1853 he joined in the battles against the Indians and helped protect the town from their attacks. He also participated in the battle of Hungry Hill where the whites were badly beaten. After peace was established, Henry returned to mining, digging at Gold Hill where he put up the first quartz mine to be built in Oregon.

It was around this same time that Henry met Elizabeth Ann Bigham an attractive young lady of eighteen in Jacksonville. The Bighams were of Irish stock and came west from Missouri crossing the plains in 1853 and settling in Southern Oregon. Their original destination was the Puget Sound country but a disagreement with the Indians at Fort Walla Walla altered their plans and they headed south to Jacksonville.

On January 24, 1860, Henry Klippel was married to Elizabeth Ann Bigham in Jacksonville. The marriage would produce six children with Lannes being born in 1861, Allie 1864, John 1867, Frederick 1869, Henry 1876 and Ivan 1879. Little Ivan died shortly after his fifth birthday.

Following the wedding Henry went off to Idaho to mine. This time he was successful and returned to Jacksonville and Elizabeth Ann with a substantial poke after a two-year absence. Henry tried his hand at many things, he operated a billiard saloon but after a year or so sold out. In 1864 he was in on the discovery of rich cinnabar and quicksilver deposits near the California border and participated in the operation of the quartz mine in Gold Hill. He became Jacksonville's first Recorder for the newly incorporated city of Jacksonville, served on the Board of Trustees and became the mayor of the town. In 1870 he was elected Sheriff of Jackson County on the Democratic ticket.

In 1872 Henry was appointed by Governor Grover to the commission for the construction of the state capital in Salem and was elected president of the board. After spending two years in Salem, he returned to Jacksonville and worked with C.C. Beekman in the construction of the Jewett Quartz Mine. Also, in 1874 he became Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of Oregon. In 1877 Henry organized a company to build a ditch from Squaw Lake to the hydraulic mines on the Applegate, and for three years operated several mines. In 1880 he was elected County Clerk and re-elected two years later.

In 1884 Henry decided to retire from politics but continued in his numerous other activities. He invested in stock-raising in Lake County and continued his farming and mining operations in Southern Oregon.

In 1897, Henry sold most of his properties, including the family home moved to Medford where he and Elizabeth made their new home. On November 2, 1901, Henry suffered a fatal heart attack. He was buried in the IOOF Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 351 Plot 3.

Before her passing in 1927 at the age of 87, Elizabeth Ann told a reporter, Fred Lockley, the story of the disagreement they had with the Indians at Fort Walla Walla that caused the Bighams to come to Jacksonville instead of the Puget Sound country. It seems that the Indians refused to take the Bighams and other immigrants to the other side of the Columbia River unless the families gave the Indians half of everything in the wagon train. Elizabeth told Lockley "I was scared to death. I thought if they divided the children in halves, I might be with the half that went with the Indians."

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Kasper and Elinore (Ellen) Jane Newcomb Kubli

Kasper Kubli was born on August 1, 1830, in Switzerland. He came to America in 1852 landing in the city of New Orleans. The following year he crossed the plains arriving in Jacksonville on October 1, 1853. Elinore Jane Newcomb was born on October 20, 1840, and came west with her family in 1853. Her father Daniel Newcomb was the captain of the wagon train of emigrants, one of whom was Kasper Kubli, who would one day become her husband.

Kasper first engaged in mining on Jackson Creek where he accumulated approximately \$1,000 which he sent home to his family to help with their financial needs. Then in the winter of 1853 he joined his fellow county-men Peter Britt and Viet Schutz in the mule packing business hauling freight from Crescent City to Jacksonville.

On December 27, 1857, Kasper Kubli and Elinore (Ellen) Jane Newcomb were married. They first met years earlier while they were crossing the plains. They would have an exceptionally happy married life. Seven children would be born to them, sadly two died while in their early youth.

The Kublis lived in the Applegate Valley where Kasper worked at farming, stock raising and merchandising. He opened the first store in Foots Creek. In 1872 he returned to Jacksonville and became a prominent hardware and tinsmith merchant.

Throughout the years Kasper kept in touch with his family and relatives in Switzerland. They expressed great hope that he would one day return home. They kept him informed as to what was happening and how things were changing in his homeland. They also mentioned that it sometimes took as long as a year for his correspondence to arrive.

Kasper very much valued the importance of education and all of his children received fine educations. The daughters all attended St. Helens Hall in Portland. Son Kasper II graduated from the University of Oregon in 1893 and then went to Harvard Law School in 1896. He became a lawyer and practiced in Jacksonville. Son Henry represented Jackson County for two terms in the Oregon Legislature.

Kasper continued to run his business until ill health compelled his retirement. He died on May 16, 1897. Following her husband's death Mrs. Kubli remained in the Rogue River Valley and spent the last six years of her life in Portland living among her children until her death on May 16, 1926. Her obituary noted that she died in the same month and on the same date as her husband twenty-nine years earlier.

Kasper and Elinore are buried in the IOOF Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 393, Plots 5 and 6.

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Marx (Max) and Louisa Hesse Muller

Max was born to Jewish parents on January 20, 1836, in Reckendorf, Germany located in the Bavarian part of that country. Life was difficult among the poorer segments of Reckendorf's population and seeking a better life, Max immigrated to America in 1851. He spent four years living on the Atlantic seaboard before heading to the west coast by way of the Nicaragua route. He arrived in Southern Oregon in 1855 and engaged in clerking for a couple of years before opening his own dry goods business in 1858.

In 1863 Max was elected to the town's Board of Trustees and later serving as the Board's President. In 1864, he was elected town treasurer and in 1868, was also elected County treasurer on the Republican ticket.

On June 11, 1868, Max now thirty-two years old, married seventeen-year-old Miss Eliza Hesse a native of Prussia. Louisa, as she was called arrived in Jacksonville earlier that same year. She and her parents immigrated to America when she was fourteen years old, first spending time in New York before moving to Kansas City.

Their first child, a son, was born a year later and named Isaac after Max's father. In addition to Isaac, Max and Louisa would parent another six children, two of whom died before their first birthday.

In 1879, Max was appointed Postmaster and served in that position for eighteen years with his shop serving as the Post Office. The Mullers had a beautiful home built on East California Street and across the road from the residences of the Beekman and the Reames families.

In 1890 he was elected county clerk of Jackson County and was reelected in 1892. In 1900 Max was elected Jackson County Treasurer a position that he held until his death in 1902. For nearly thirty-two years Max also served as secretary of the Masonic Warren Lodge in Jacksonville.

The Mullers were a very well-respected family and played an important part in Jacksonville's society at the time.

Max died on July 20, 1902, at the age of sixty-six after suffering a stroke. Following his death Louisa moved to Medford and lived with her son William until 1915 when they both moved to Oakland, California. Louisa died there on April 28, 1924, and three of her four surviving children accompanied her remains to Medford for burial in the Jacksonville Cemetery next to Max.

Max and Louisa are buried in the Masonic Section of the cemetery in Block 413, Plots 7 and 8.

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Colonel John England and Elizabeth Hopwood Ross

John England Ross was born on February 15, 1818, in Madison County, Ohio. When he was ten years old his father, Angus Ross, moved the family to Fountain County, Indiana and in 1833 to Cook County, Illinois where John learned the butcher trade.

In 1840 John married Margaret Robinson in Chicago. She was the daughter of Alexander Robinson, a man of gentry and a Frontiersman of English descent and his wife an Indian Princess. Robinson was highly respected by American Colonials and given land grants in the Chicago area for services in Indian dealings. Sadly, Ross's marriage to his new bride Margaret ended suddenly when she died just eight months after their wedding.

John headed for Oregon in 1847 as Captain of a forty-wagon train that was formed in St. Joseph, Missouri. While in route he and two other members of an advanced party found the remains of the Warren Party Train who were attacked by Indians. After crossing the John Day River, the destitute Warren Party joined the Ross Train. John traded his belongings to friendly Indians for provisions for the Warren group, staying with them until his outfit arrived for the join-up.

John arrived in The Dalles on the Columbia practically broke and worked on a boat bringing emigrants down river for one dollar a day. Towards the end of 1847 he went to Oregon City where he opened a butcher shop, a trade he learned as a young man in Illinois. He then enlisted at the outbreak of the Cayuse Indian War. Afterward he returned to Oregon City but upon hearing of the discovery of gold in California he headed out. For the next couple of years, he mined both in California and Oregon where in late 1851 Ross bought a cattle herd in the Willamette, driving them south to Jacksonville where he opened a butcher shop in January 1852.

On January 7, 1853, John and Elizabeth Hopwood were married by the town pump, with all of the town's inhabitants being invited. The wedding was the first in Jacksonville and the second in Jackson County. Ross was thirty-five and his bride was twenty-three. Elizabeth was the daughter of Thomas Hopwood who brought his family out to Oregon in 1851 from Hopwood, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth had a special wedding dress made for the occasion but, John Ross only had his buckskin suit to wear. A number of ladies fretted over what they considered improper attire when reportedly Jane McCully came to the rescue by producing a white shirt that belonged to her husband. As the story goes Dr. McCully was a much smaller man than Ross, so the shirt was carefully put on and buttoned. All was fine until John decided to join in on a jumping contest that some of the men were holding while waiting for the ceremony to begin. The shirt split down the back but the ever-resourceful Jane McCully poked holes down both sides of the split and laced it back together. The wedding cake was made with duck eggs, the sweetening was brown sugar, and the shortening was rendered from bear suet, but the cooks decorated it with as much elegance as they could manage.

The newlyweds acquired a land grant claim near the farm of Elizabeth's father in Central Point and after the birth of their first baby, John began building a cabin. The baby named Mary Louise was the second child and first girl to be born in Jacksonville. They moved into their new home in December where the new husband and father settled in to become a farmer and solid citizen. The Ross's would have ten children, four sons and six daughters, one daughter only lived a year.

In 1853, John Ross found himself a Colonel commanding two Battalions of volunteers protecting the Pioneers from another general attack by Indians. In 1854 the Governor requested Ross to again organize Volunteers to protect emigrant trains coming in from the south. In 1855 he was commissioned Colonel, of the 9th Oregon Regiment. He was also chosen by special election to represent Jackson County in the Territorial Council. Following the Civil War, Ross travelled to Washington to confer with General Sherman regarding Indian matters and to present compensation claims of his troops.

On December 2, 1872, Governor Grover commissioned Ross a Brigadier General, of the 1st Brigade, Oregon Militia. He led his command fighting as a Volunteer Unit with the Regulars, in the Modoc War. This would be his final military action.

In 1878 John was elected state senator of Jackson County and was appointed chairman of the military committee. At the conclusion of his term, he had served his fellow citizens for almost fifty years as a soldier, a neighbor and a politician. He retired to his farm on Ross Lane and built a handsome house for his family. John passed on February 17, 1890, at his home in Central Point.

Elizabeth passed away on September 9, 1904. Having been a devoted wife and mother raising nine children, mostly on her own while her husband was away fighting or tending to political duties. As the Southern Oregon Pioneer Association records reflect, "She has ever been to her late husband a true helpmate in the fullest sense of the word—She is a woman of sterling worth—her makeup is of the early Pioneer type- a true woman ---".

John and Elizabeth Ross are buried in the Masonic Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 331, Elizabeth in Plot 1 and John in Plot 2.

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William Green Harrison T'Vault and Rhoda Boone Burns T'Vault

Some say that William was born to be a Pioneer as he was born on March 23, 1809, while on board a ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean. His parents left France for a new life in America. Other reports claim he was born in Arkansas, another Kentucky, while his death notice in the Jacksonville, Oregon newspaper claimed he was a native of Missouri.

The family lived in Indiana and William excelled in academics. He received a law degree and began a practice in Booneville, Indiana. He was also a State Legislator for the state of Indiana. On July 11, 1829, William and Rhoda Boone Burns were married in Warrick County, Indiana. The marriage would result in the birth of five children, two of whom died in infancy.

In 1845 William, who was always ready for an adventure and after hearing stories of the west, wasted no time in packing up his family and headed for Oregon. This was 1845, long before the gold rush or the Donation Land Claims that would bring many others westward. William outfitted their covered wagon and oxen team and he, Rhoda and their three children bid farewell to family and friends and headed to parts unknown. They joined a company of sixty-six wagons and two hundred and ninety-three people traveling the Oregon Trail from St. Joseph, Missouri. William was unanimously elected Captain of the wagon train and led the group on its long and difficult eight-month journey to Oregon.

The family settled in Oregon City as William thought it the best place to provide for his family. He saw a need for a newspaper, so he established the first newspaper in Oregon and called it The Spectator, the first copy of which was printed in February 1846.

They remained in Oregon City until the call of gold brought William and his family to Southern Oregon. William knew that with so many miners arriving in the area from around the world, there would be many opportunities for him. They first settled in the Dardanelle's near present day Gold Hill where William became the first Postmaster.

It was not too long before tensions began to run high between the new white settlers and the Native Americans. When the Rogue River Indian Wars broke out, William took an active part and led a company of men during the final battle before the peace treaty was signed at the Table Rocks.

The T'Vaults eventually moved into Jacksonville where William established Southern Oregon's first newspaper called the Table Rock Sentinel. He named it for the original name of Jacksonville which was called Table Rock City. He declared his newspaper to be independent on all subjects and devoted to the best interests of Southern Oregon. There were those who disagreed, and the newspaper was fairly short lived. William returned to practicing law and soon became a member of the State Legislature and was then elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. Before retiring he also served as a United States Senator.

Oddly enough, both his newspaper and legal career brought him both great friends and bitter enemies. There was the time that it was feared that William had drowned near Port Orford. And truly he would have drowned had it not been for a courageous Indian boy who saved his life. Referring to William's possible death, one editor was only too quick to write, "A man born to be hung certainly can't be drowned." It was said that William left his mark on one end of Oregon to the other.

After a lifetime of blazing trails, serving his country and helping to establish this great state of Oregon, William died at the age of sixty-two from the smallpox epidemic. The epidemic swept through Northern California and Southern Oregon in 1869 claiming lives as it went. William, as well as other victims of this dreaded disease were confined to a Pest House that was run by Father Blanchett and the sisters of St. Mary's. No family or friends were allowed to visit for fear of becoming a victim as well. William died in the Pest House on February 5, 1869 and was buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery late at night by Father Blanchett and the Cemetery Sexton without family or ceremony.

Rhoda Boone was born on November 9, 1810, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. When she was eleven years old her family moved to Indiana where she would meet her future husband, William T'Vault. To say that Rhoda was proud of being a direct descendent of Daniel Boone, Kentucky's famous Pioneer, would be a major understatement. She was a devoted wife and mother and a true pioneer of Southern Oregon. She outlived her husband, her son and one of her daughters. Her remaining years were spent helping her widowed daughter Elizabeth raise her family. Rhoda Boone Burns T'Vault died on June 4, 1886. She was laid to rest next to her late husband.

William and Rhoda are buried in the City Section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in Block 243, Plots 6 and 7.

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