

# William Pernoll

Born in Germany in 1828, William had an adventurous spirit. As a young man he sailed from Denmark to Astoria, Oregon where he decided to jump ship. He had heard about all the gold being mined and wanted to strike it rich!

By 1855 William was in the Rogue Valley and serving in Company A 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Oregon Militia during the Rogue River Indian War. William was wounded in action and taken to Jacksonville to recover. Following his release, he bought land near Provolt where he raised stock, farmed and worked as a butcher.

William purchased a ranch in the Applegate Valley in 1874 and built a home and store, which he operated as a grange. Working with neighbors, William devised a way to irrigate land with water from the Applegate River.

In 1876 William married Nancy Miller. Nancy was 30 years younger than William and the daughter of Rogue Valley pioneers. Together they raised eight children.

William closed the grange in 1890 and built a new store, called the Pernoll Store, which he operated until his death in 1900. William's son, John, took over and changed the name to the Applegate Store, which he ran until his death in 1938. After John's death, his wife Lora and her sister, kept the store open until 1955.

Pernoll's grange store was moved to George McUne's tourist attraction, Pioneer Village, in Jacksonville in the 1970s. When Pioneer Village closed in 1985, the building was sold at auction to Don Rowlett, who donated it to the Southern Oregon Historical Society. In 1989 the Applegate Valley Historical Society was formed and organized the building's return to the Applegate, where it is now a museum.