

**2022**

## **STORIES FROM MEET THE PIONEERS**

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

### **2022 – Our Fourteenth Year**

#### **Vignettes**

**Marian B. Towne, First Woman Elected to the Legislature in Oregon**

**A Son's Promise**

#### **Narratives**

**The "Queen of the Pacific" and Jacksonville's First Fire Engine and Fire Company**

**Oregon Becomes a State**

#### **Individual Stories**

**Miss Popularity 1908**

**Patrick and Lizzie Ryan**

**Judge James Russell and Minnie Helm Neil – Lives of Service**

**Alice Berry Kane – A Station Master's Wife**

**A Jacksonville Love Story – John Swan and Anna Sophia Love**

Note: When author Dirk Siedlecki passed on January 31, 2023, he had not yet updated the manuscript of his book to include the then-very-recently-completed production of Meet the Pioneers (2022). The text that follows for each vignette, narrative, and individual story is from the Pioneer Profiles section of the 2022 souvenir program, written for the event by Dirk.

# MEET THE PIONEERS

2022



## Character

Alice Berry Kane  
Lady Oregon  
David Linn  
Anna Sophia Love  
John Swan Love  
James Russell Neil  
Minnie Helm Neil

## Player

Constance Jesser  
Becky Durango  
David Sours  
Carolyn Kingsnorth  
Stephen Corelis  
Robert Hight  
Anne Peugh

## Character

Laura Neuber  
Thomas Reames  
Lizzie Ryan  
Patrick Ryan  
Mrs. Eliza Tice  
Marian B. Towne  
Col. William T'Vault

## Player

Ann Wilton  
Eric Poppick  
Lynn Ransford  
Michael Sneary  
Carolyn Embry  
Marcy McQuillan  
David Rowley

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### **Vignette - Marian B. Towne, First Woman Elected to the Legislature in Oregon**

Marian Towne was a leader in expanding opportunities for Oregon women in the early twentieth century. Marian was raised in Phoenix, Oregon and began her journey as a clerk for Jackson County, working during the day and studying law at night.

In 1914, she ran for office and defeated a well-known Republican by 339 votes! Marian said that throughout her life, "I never feared the men, but I looked out for the women."

Marian died on February 16, 1966 at the age of 86 and is buried in her home town in the Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery.

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### **Vignette – A Son's Promise**

On March 24, 1851, and shortly after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, John Rappelyea Tice left an angry father and a weeping mother behind in Covington, Indiana making a promise to return. Young and full of adventure he did not want to miss the chance to see the west and make his fortune. John was sure that it would only take a year, maybe two, and he would be able to start sending money home and one day return to Indiana a very rich man.

John's promise to return home kept being delayed for one reason or another which he explained in his letters home. Finally, in 1882, John returned to Indiana for a long overdue reunion with his parents and siblings.

John Tice and his wife Margaret are buried in the City section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in block 94.

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### **Narrative – Grounding of the “Queen of the Pacific”, Jacksonville’s First Fire Engine and Fire Company**

In May 1883, the Board of Trustees sent David Linn off to purchase the town’s first fire engine. A Rumsey pumper wagon was purchased from Seneca Falls, New York at a cost of \$865.

Moving it from New York to Oregon was no easy task as heavy items like this first had to go by boat sailing around Cape Horn then to San Francisco. From San Francisco the engine had to go by steamship north to Portland, Oregon where during its journey on the Queen of the Pacific it became stranded on a sandbar off Astoria. The ship’s crew threw cargo overboard while trying to free the ship from the sand bar. The Queen finally made it to Portland with Jacksonville’s fire engine still on board however, the town had to come up with another \$220 to cover the salvage costs.

The engine is on display at the Applebaker Fire Hall just behind Jacksonville’s Old City Hall on South Oregon Street.

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### **Narrative – Oregon Becomes a State**

Residents of Jacksonville, as well as those living in the Oregon Country, were growing anxious and frustrated with the delays and lack of news from back east with regard to Oregon being admitted as a state.

There were numerous delays in preparing the required state constitution, with the question of slavery being one hurdle among others. Oregon's new state constitution was approved by the United States Senate on June 18, 1858. Trying to calm restless residents, and assuming the House would immediately follow the Senate's approval, the newspaper reported that Oregon had been admitted as a State.

Unfortunately, the House did not approve Oregon being admitted until February 12, 1859, some nine months later.

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### **Laura Neuber – Miss Popularity**

In 1908, Laura Neuber was just 13 years of age and living in Jacksonville. She entered a popularity contest that was actually a newspaper circulation contest that two relatively new Medford newspapers were running. Those entering the contest had to get people to sign up for new subscriptions or extend existing ones.

On February 22, 1908, Laura was announced the winner and now owner of a brand new 1908 REO roadster! Still too young to drive, photos were taken of her sitting behind the wheel.

Laura passed in 1983 and is buried in New Hampshire.

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**Patrick and Lizzie Ryan**

Patrick came from Ireland at the age of twelve and came west to Jacksonville when he was 22. He worked as a clerk, and soon became a business owner and later started constructing buildings and got into real estate.

He married Lizzy in 1862, whom he met while she was passing through Jacksonville in a Travelin' Show. Patrick was very fond of sun-bathing in the nude and called it his daily heliotherapy ritual.

Patrick died in 1908 and Lizzy died in 1913. They are buried in the City section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in block 104.

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**Judge James and Minnie Neil**

A loving couple they were married in 1865 and had 43 years together. Minnie felt her purpose in life was to make a loving home for her husband and sons Frank and George.

James practiced law in Jacksonville and was elected District Attorney three times as well as a County Judge. He covered several counties and was away from Minnie and his family much of the time. He reflects back on those absences with regret.

Minnie died in 1908, and James tragically died in a house fire in 1917. Both are buried in the Masonic section of the Jacksonville Cemetery block 387.

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**Alice Berry Kane**

Born in Jacksonville in 1860, Alice would later marry Ellsworth Charles Kane, who went by E.C. They built a home in Ashland and had two children.

E.C. worked for the railroad and traveled the rail line and was often away from home for days at a time. One day Alice picked up the mail at the depot and found a letter addressed to Ellsworth Kane. Surprised as no one called her husband Ellsworth, it was either E.C. or Charles, she opened the envelope and discovered E.C. was keeping another family.

Alice is buried in the Masonic section of the Jacksonville Cemetery in block 440.

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### **A Jacksonville Love Story**

Tragedy would bring John Swan Love and Anna Sophia Harris together as husband and wife in 1860. Life was good. John's business interests continued to grow, they had three children and built a new home, the Love House, on 3<sup>rd</sup> and C Streets in Jacksonville.

Then tragedy struck again, John died of tuberculosis at the age of 37, Sophia was pregnant with their fourth child. A year and a half later, Sophia and her daughter Maggie, both died of smallpox.

The Love family are buried in the Masonic section of the cemetery block 443.

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