Nonfiction History Proposal

“Generation 1800: The Men and Women Who Traveled West” proposed by C.J. Lake is a collection of 45 short biographies and archival photos of everyday pioneers who are at rest in an historic Civil War-era cemetery. Readers can see themselves in various profiles of nurses, music-lovers, teachers, restaurant-owners, grocers, and bankers. The theme is: everyday people leave a legacy in a community. It’s what we remember that says who we are.

Located about 250 miles from Fort Clatsop on the Columbia River Gorge — where Lewis and Clark completed the Oregon Trail in 1806 — these ordinary pioneers and Civil War veterans shaped the areas they settled. Arriving on foot, and by wagon train, stagecoach and steamer people like Judge J.J. Walton, Louis Renninger, Paul Brattain, Columbus and Louisa Sewell established families, farms, business, colleges, state constitutions and local governments in the scantily populated territories. It was an era where a judge was also a farmer; a medical doctor was a gold prospector.

In the vein of works by Deborah Heiligman and Paulette Jiles, a similar book is “Oregon 1859: A Snapshot in Time” by Janice Marschner and “Hillside Cemetery: Beyond the Graves” by JoEllen Hundeland. The audience for this nonfiction title includes: Northwest tourists; Civil War and cemetery enthusiasts; pioneer and Wild West history buffs. An additional school market includes middle-grade and YA readers learning about Westward Expansion and The Oregon Trail in required high school U.S. History classes. The scope includes Part 3: profiles of regional African-American, Chinese, Asian, Latino, Pacific Island settlers, and those from Kalapuya and Native American tribes who were part of Generation 1800.

Historic and present-day maps illustrating significant locations will transport readers back in time and long distances to the era when people crossed vast prairies and trekked great mountain ranges seeking a new life for themselves and their families. Writing for Parts 1 and 2 is complete. To fund research for Part 3 I am collaborating with Dr. Quentin Holmes, President of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association (EPCA); Oregon Black Pioneers; Eugene Asian Celebration; Lane County and Oregon Historic Societies. There is also a GIS geocoding and mapping component by Professor Christoph Rass, Professor für Neueste Geschichte und Historische Migrationsforschung, Universität Osnabrück, Neuer Graben 49069.

Bio: I’ve been a reporter for the Chicago Tribune, Eugene Register-Guard and other newspapers. Currently, I’m a public high school teacher in New York City. Notably, during the summer of 2023 I was one of 23 educators selected nationwide by the National Park Service to serve as a Teacher Park Ranger. Since 1872, my family (Lake) has been associated with the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery/EPCA, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. More details about my qualifications are available at dabadelic.com and stedi-education.com. I will market this title through my alumni associations at Columbia University, University of Oregon and the University of Illinois book club. Email campaigns, social media clips and school visits will generate excitement connecting audiences on both coasts with the journey West.

Thank you for reviewing this proposal. I hope you find it both exciting and promising.

Table of Contents:

The men and women of Generation 1800 were anything but ordinary. It was an era where a judge was also a farmer; a medical doctor a gold prospector. The United States was becoming a nation (1800-1840s); and then our nation was at war with itself over slavery (1850s-1865). Ordinary people traveled West during the 1800s. Some, like habitual state Constitution writer Paul Brittain (he drafted four) came on foot. Others like English hoteliers Stephen and Eliza Smeed journeyed to the Northwest by way of train to California. Final miles to the fertile Willamette Valley could be treacherous. Seasonally delayed by heavy rain or a snow-capped mountain range, those with means arrived by stagecoach on muddy puncheon roads.

For a century, Americans went West based on a letter, message or notice of opportunity. By wagon train it was an arduous 2000-mile overland route. (The Transcontinental Railroad, which was built by more than 11,000 Chinese laborers, wouldn't be ready for that golden spike until 1869.) After the Lewis and Clark expedition, which ended at nearby Columbia River Gorge in 1806, the pioneers featured in this collection – for one reason or another – decided to leave their homes in established states like Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee. They were regular people who persevered and eventually shaped the communities where they put down roots.

The pioneers featured in Part 1 and Part 2 were selected were from a single 1872 cemetery in a northwest college town. Buried there were the "odd-fellows" of Lodge No. 9 of the International Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.) They weren't the celebrated masons – they're buried in another cemetery nearby. These biographies are samples: forty snap shots of everyday people on the frontier who lived during the 1800s. Today, they are simply at rest underground.

The cemetery itself is located on Kalapuya ilihi, the traditional homeland of the Kalapuya people. Part 3 includes biographies of notable Kalapuya who have been selected with advisement

of enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Also featured in Part 3 are the personal lives of Chinese, Asian, Hawaiian, Hispanic and Latinx and African-Americans who lived in the region during the 1800s. Poll taxes, exclusionary laws and clauses in The Donation Land Act of 1850 during the nineteenth century kept non-white settlers at the mercy of how well they interacted with their neighbors in a frontier environment. It's up to the reader to imagine how, beyond these pages, Native Americans, pioneers and immigrants from faraway lands might have managed side-by-side on the frontier.

Author's Note:

The stories of the lives lived by the teenagers, soldiers, businessmen, physicians, farmers, wives, daughters and children buried in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery stayed dormant until 2015. That year the non-profit cemetery received a state grant from the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation to build a website featuring profiles of the people buried therein. I wrote the first biography of Louis Renninger, a Union veteran who survived the deadly naval Battle of Vicksburg in 1863 during the Civil War. I was hooked.

This project filled my computer with cemetery records and Oregon Historical Society archival newspaper clippings, photos, last wills and testaments; handwritten census documents, employment contracts and funeral home receipts. It became clear the tensions, politics, passions and yearnings to establish a good life on the frontier could be found at rest in this cemetery. When time afforded, I'd walk below the shade of towering fir trees on the park-like cemetery grounds and visit a grave. Each person was a member of Generation 1800.

May this compilation of biographies be the start for readers. More stories of your mothers, fathers, great-aunts and great-great cousins can be preserved. Find their records in state and local

historical archives. Use resources like findagrave.com. Write a profile to share with your family. Let the details of their struggles, longings and legacies be told above ground. After all, it's what we remember that says who we are.

[Map of U.S. circa 1800.]

[Map of Oregon Territory circa 1800 with the GIS locations of the burial sites featured in "Generation 1800".]

[Map of Willamette Valley, Oregon, circa 1800.]

[Photos of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery, circa 1800s, 1900s, 1940s, 1970s, 2020s.]

[Map of Eugene Pioneer Cemetery burials, circa 2020s.]

[Map of Oregon circa 2026 with the GIS locations of the burial sites featured in "Generation 1800".]

Norton E. Winnard (1864-1933)

Doctor and Gold Prospector

Years before he founded a hospital in Oregon, Norton E. Winnard was a young physician who succumbed to the 1897 Alaska Gold Rush.

At age 33 the newly married Chicago physician put together an "outfit" including a pharmacist and dentist. With gear and a dog they boarded a train for Portland, Oregon. En route to the Copper River in Valdez, Alaska Winnard fell in love with the northwest. A big man at 6 ft 2 in. Dr. Winnard was known throughout his life as a kind, humorous and skilled general practitioner. Adventures led him to situations where he was called upon to treat fishermen mauled by bears, dysentery in a Native American village, and repair a man's ear that was torn off by the hoof of a draft horse after being thrown from it.

Born in Michigan in 1864, Norton grew up on a farm in Iowa. He was the middle of three brothers with an older sister, Rhoda. Their mother saw to it that all the children were well educated.

At age 18 Norton traveled to Nebraska to teach school alongside Rhoda, who had moved a few years earlier. When he had saved enough money, Norton left teaching to attend Rush Medical College in Chicago. In 1892 Winnard got his M.D. and shortly thereafter married Charlotte "Lottie' Goodman.

By 1898 newspapers were reporting easy gold strikes in Alaska. Like so many others, Dr. Winnard got carried away with enthusiasm. Lottie sold her beloved piano to help finance the

Alaskan adventure. On the train west he wrote a letter to his brothers on the farm in Iowa describing the mild West Coast winter. He even suggested they relocate.

In a letter to his sweetheart, Winnard wrote that he and his crew made it to Alaska's interior on "a miserable little tugboat called 'Chilkat.'" Once over the steep glacier the team prospected the Copper River and found nothing. The "Valdez Glacier Trail" was a hoax promoted by steamship companies.

Winnard started for home and temporarily stayed in an encampment near Klutina Lake fearing to go home "broke." Several letters to Lotte relayed the bad news. "I hope that you will not scold because I come home empty handed. If anyone had found gold I would stay."

He continued to describe how fine Oregon would be as a place to live. "I will start down the Copper River in about three weeks. I plan to stop at Dyea and Skagway, then come on to Seattle. Want you to come west and meet me in Seattle."

Lottie joined him. From there they went to Heppner, Oregon where he established a practice. His son Norton Goodman Winnard was born in 1900. Daughter, Charlotte, was born in 1903. Their family moved to Albany, then on to Eugene in 1919 where he set up general practice and obstetrics. In 1922, he helped found the Eugene Hospital.

Every year Dr. Winnard went back to Rush or to the Mayo Clinic to learn the latest advances in medicine. He spoke to a regional physicians' conference on the different causes of arthritis.

Dr. Winnard made health inspection trips to outlying logging camps, and did house calls, usually on his bicycle because he knew the health benefits of exercise. At a time when a broken hip in the elderly was fatal, Winnard treated his 87-year-old father-in-law with surgery reserved for the young. The old man recovered and lived in good health another seven years.

From 1919 until their deaths in the 1930s, both Dr. Winnard and Lottie were greatly involved in the social life of their community and in charitable causes.

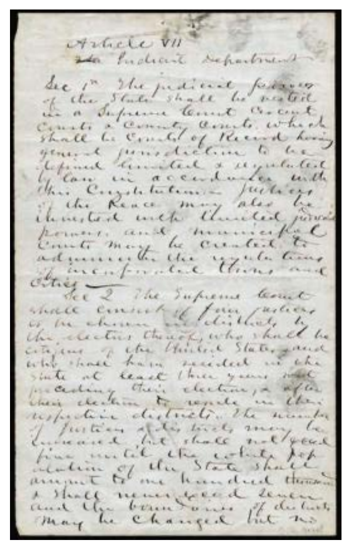
Embarking on a motor trip to California in 1931, near Cottage Grove Dr. Winnard lost control of his car in loose gravel, and they left the road and hit a fence. Lottie was thrown against the dashboard, sustaining a fatal internal injury. Their daughter Charlotte was also in the car, but survived along with her father.

In November of 1933, at the age of 69, Dr. Winnard passed in a hospital after several weeks of illness. Although he did not strike gold as a young physician, Winnard helped others on that arduous trip and in every place he lived after.

Paul Brattain (1801-1883)

Author of Four State Constitutions

During his lifetime, from Indiana to Oregon, Paul Brattain left a unique literary thumbprint everywhere he moved: he drafted four state constitutions.


Article VII
The Judicial Department
Sec 1st The judicial power of the State shall be vested in a Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, & County Courts, which shall be Courts of Record having general jurisdiction to be defined, limited & regulated by law in accordance with this Constitution. Justices of the Peace may also be invested with limited judicial powers, and municipal Courts may be created to administer the regulations of incorporated towns and cities.
Sec 2 The Supreme Court shall consist of four justices to be chosen in districts by the electors thereof, who shall be citizens of the United States, and who shall have resided in the State at least three years next preceding their election, & after their election to reside in their respective districts. The number of justices & districts may be increased but shall not exceed five until the white population of the State shall amount to one hundred thousand & shall never exceed seven and the boundaries of districts may be changed but no

Through his interest in -- and talent for -- establishing foundations for new governments, during the 1800s Brattain became a familiar face in the settlement of the West. He filled many prominent official positions including the Constitutional Committees of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Oregon.

A farmer, Brattain was described as "a congenial and honest man, a true neighbor." He also held the position of County Auditor of Lane County when Oregon was still a territory. In addition, he served as County Agent for Lane County for many years.

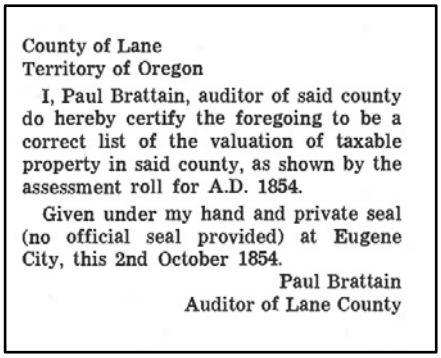
Born in North Carolina, Brattain was drawn to the frontier at an early age. As a young boy he migrated to Tennessee when it was a wilderness. By 1816 he had moved to Indiana and helped

write that state's original constitution. In the 1830s he moved further west to Illinois when it was inhabited largely by Native Americans primarily of Peoria and Kaskaskia Illiniwek tribes. At some point, Brattain was asked to help write the Illinois State Constitution, which he did.

Most at home when living was on the edge of civilization, in the 1840s Brittan and family moved to the broad prairie east of Kensoqua, Iowa. Then in 1852, the Brattains re-located further west to the Northwest Territory. He claimed land in Lane County and built a farm in Springfield.

By 1857 Brattain was again drafting a state constitution, this time for the Oregon Territory. That version became official when Oregon obtained statehood two years later in 1859. Interestingly, a full third of it is word-for-word identical to the state constitution Brattain wrote years earlier for Indiana.

Little is known about Brattain's education or origins. What can be said is that he consistently played a part in the development of the Western Territories in which he lived. He was a man of letters with a penchant for being on the forefront of things. A sentence from Brittain's obituary after he died on his farm in Springfield at the age of 92 reads:



County of Lane
Territory of Oregon

I, Paul Brattain, auditor of said county do hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct list of the valuation of taxable property in said county, as shown by the assessment roll for A.D. 1854.

Given under my hand and private seal (no official seal provided) at Eugene City, this 2nd October 1854.

Paul Brattain
Auditor of Lane County

"He was a kind and congenial companion, a true and generous neighbor. He leaves a large family and wide circle of friends mourn his loss."

"The pioneers of the great Northwest are falling from the ranks of the living one by one, and soon they will be covered from our sight by the green turf, and then we will know them only by their noble deeds.

Elizabeth McNett Rehm (1832-1915)

Civil War Nurse

An early supporter of Northwest Christian College (located north of the University of Oregon campus) Elizabeth Rehm was a Civil War army nurse who benefitted from the first Congressional act to recognize women's military service in the form of a $12 per month pension.

Born in Netz, New York Rehm was 31 and single when the Civil War began. She served in the U.S. Medical Corps as a nurse. After the war Elizabeth married William Rehm, a farmer who was 18 years her senior. According to U.S. Census records, in 1872 at age 40 Elizabeth McNett Rehm was living in Umatilla, Oregon. The Rehm's had a young daughter named Maria.

In 1883 Elizabeth became a member of the Women's Relief Corps – the official women's auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. After years of effort and persistence from the WRC and Army Nurses' Association, in 1892 President Benjamin Harrison signed the Army Nurses Pension Act (ANPA) into law. Elizabeth qualified for this quiet milestone in American history: Granting pensions to women based on their own military service rather than that of a husband or son. The act implicitly acknowledged women's military service and, to some extent, legitimized women's financial independence from male bread-winners. Previously, only widows and mothers of deceased soldiers were granted pensions so long as they remained unmarried.

Following the death of both husband and daughter in the 1890s, Elizabeth moved to Eugene and made her mark as an early supporter of Eugene Bible College, now Northwest Christian College. In 1897 the castle-like building Rehm Hall was named in her honor.

In later years -- from 1907 to 1915 – Elizabeth actually lived in Rehm Hall. She passed away at 1p.m. in its parlor at the age of 84. The presiding President Sanderson said Mrs. Rehm had made extensive gifts to the University.

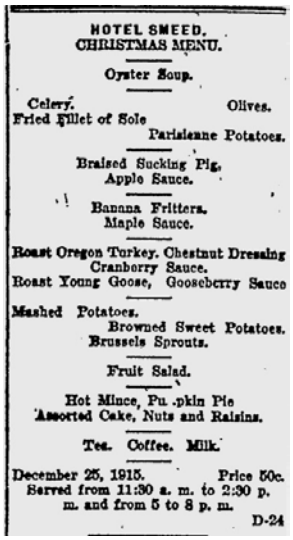
Today, buried beneath a towering Douglass fir tree, a white marble obelisk marks her grave. Immensely proud of her service, the epitaph reads succinctly: Civil War Nurse.

Stephen and Eliza Smeed (1842–1930)

Hotel Proprietors from England

Dinner at the Smeede Hotel was an elegant affair. Visitors, local patrons and noteworthy guests like 1896 presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan were treated most royally.

Located in an Italianate style building steps from the local train station, owners Stephen and Eliza Smeed offered "splendid" dining at a reasonable price.


HOTEL SMEED.
CHRISTMAS MENU.

Oyster Soup.

Celery. Olives.
Fried Fillet of Sole
Parisienne Potatoes.

Braised Sucking Pig,
Apple Sauce.

Banana Fritters.
Maple Sauce.

Roast Oregon Turkey. Chestnut Dressing
Cranberry Sauce.
Roast Young Goose, Gooseberry Sauce

Mashed Potatoes.
Browned Sweet Potatoes.
Brussels Sprouts.

Fruit Salad.

Hot Mince, Pumpkin Pie
Assorted Cake, Nuts and Raisins.

Tea. Coffee. Milk.

December 25, 1915. Price 50c.
Served from 11:30 a. m. to 2:30 p. m. and from 5 to 8 p. m.

D-24

A 1915 advertisement in the Eugene Daily Guard promoted Christmas dinner at the Smeede Hotel with "the finest Turkeys and geese on the market." For 50-cents a guest, holiday festivities began with oyster soup and fried fillet of Sole. The next course was braised suckling pig with apple sauce. Also, banana fritters and maple sauce. The main course included both "Roasted Oregon Turkey, Chestnut Dressing and Cranberry Sauce" and "Roast Young Goose with Gooseberry Sauce." A variety of vegetable and fruit salad sides were served as well. Dessert consisted of "Hot Mince, Pumpkin Pie, Assorted Cakes, Nuts and Raisins."

All manner of oysters were regularly available at Smeede Grill. Menu advertisements promoted “blue points and toke points on the half shell.” From the Columbia River, “Shoalwater, Olympia and eastern” varieties.

In the 1880s pioneer and Englishman Stephen Smeed purchased a three-story Italianate style building for $12,000. He opened “The Baker Hotel” in 1885 on Willamette Street near the local Train Station. The name changed several times. It became Hotel Smeede in 1907, with the extra 'e' added for embellishment. Until 1908 he also owned a farm in nearby Walterville that was one source of fresh greens, produce, fruits, poultry, goat and dairy for the dining room menu.

A well-regarded and affable gentleman, there was a fair amount of local interest about the Smeed family. He was the first local businessman to purchase city bonds in 1911. Electric streetlights were posted throughout the city’s downtown including streetlamps along Willamette Street which lit the way to his Smeede Hotel. He paid $5000 according to the Eugene Daily Guard newspaper.

February 1912 the local Eugene Daily Guard newspaper printed an “Interesting Letter from Stephen Smeed who is in England.” Spanning three pages, Smeed described a mid-winter tour of Europe with his son Herbert.

Born in Hastings, Sussex England Smeed noted, "The climate of England is very much like that of Western Oregon. And the winter there has been mild like it is here." On his homeward trip he was "struck that his favored spot, Oregon, reminded him very much of the country he most recently left.

That happened a rainy week before Thanksgiving in 1875. Businessman Stephen Smeed and his family of four first arrived by stagecoach in Eugene, Oregon. Recent emigrants from England to Wisconsin, they'd decided to travel west by rail from Omaha, Nebraska to San Francisco.

"It took five days for us to come from Redding (CA) to Roseburg," recalled Stephen in a 1916 article in the Eugene Daily Guard. "The roads were rough and washed out by floods. Trunks had to be shipped separately," he remembered. Eugene was the first place between Sacramento and Portland where we could receive our baggage." So they stayed.

"The first winter we were here, the weather was unusually mild, and the season was long. I remember eating Christmas dinner with Uncle Jimmy, and we had green peas just picked from the vines," Smeed reminisced in a news article commemorating his 41 years in Eugene.

The couple settled into a house on West 10th Street in Eugene, where they raised their three children: William, Carrie and Herbert. Eliza Smeed died Nov. 11 1911 of long-standing heart trouble and dropsy. She and Mr. Smeed had left earlier in the month in hopes that the change would benefit her health. She was survived by her children and husband.

At the age of 88, Stephen Smeed died Dec. 24, 1930. His pride in locally sourced hospitality during his town's formative years endures as a notable tradition to current times.

Adelaide V. Lake (1897—1970)

Newspaper Publisher

Journalist and publisher Adelaide Lake grew up in an era when women couldn't vote, couldn't smoke in public, and were expected to get married and become homemakers.

A fiercely-independent individual, Lake opened up the way for women to be respected as professionals in their own field – whatever they chose to be.


Lake Peterson

Oregana Staff

Adelaide V. Lake	Editor-in-Chief
Curtiss A. Peterson	Manager
Elmo Madden	Assistant Editor
Forest C. Watson	Assistant Manager

A reporter for the Portland Oregonian newspaper and several other newspapers, Lake traveled to Turkey as a foreign correspondent in the 1920s. During her lifetime, Lake was also the editor/owner of the Sheridan Sun newspaper in Sheridan, Oregon. With a Master's Degree in Education from Oregon State College in 1942, she went on to teach Journalism at Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) and earned the professional respect of all who knew her.

Adelaide V. Lake was born in 1897 to a rather well-to-do family in Eugene. However, because of being a woman (and having unsightly reddish-purple birthmarks on her neck and face) Adelaide faced adversity all of her life. In her own determined way she overcame whatever adversity the world dealt her.

As an undergraduate at the University of Oregon in 1916, family members recalled that she was so hard to look at none of the campus sororities would allow her to pledge. However, in her junior year, Lake was elected editor of Oregana, the UO's annual yearbook.

Most notably, Lake was a well-known newspaper editor/owner in an era when only men were allowed to do that sort of thing. In the 1930s Adelaide had written a front-page article that

was critical of the Longshoreman Labor Union in Coos Bay, Oregon. Shortly thereafter she received a visit by two representatives who told her that: *if* she ever wrote another article like that *then* they would dynamite her newspaper presses.

Legend has it that Adelaide drove alone to the next meeting of the Longshoreman Labor Union in Coos Bay, Oregon. She walked into the meeting smoking a cigarette, and announced: "My name is Adelaide Lake, I am the owner of the Sheridan Sun newspaper. Recently I received a visit by two very rude and mean-spirited men from your organization who threatened to dynamite our presses. *If* that ever happens again, *then* I personally will come down here and dynamite this entire damn hall!" Adelaide walked out and drove home. Apparently, they never bothered her again. In 1938, Lake sold the Sheridan Sun Newspaper to industrialists in Washington for a healthy sum.

Sheridan Sun Changes Hands

Sheridan, Dec. 20 (AP)—Sale of the Sheridan Sun, weekly newspaper, by Adelaide Lake and Paul Launer, to Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Brown, Stanwood, Wash., was announced today by Miss Lake. The new owners will take possession January 1.

Descendants remember that a visit to "Aunt Adelaide" included supper on genuine China trimmed with real gold. Sterling silver knives, forks and spoons were placed on the table. Aunt Adelaide always had the very finest.

"Looking back, I believe this was Aunt Adelaide's way of rewarding herself for the tremendous adversity that she always faced. Adelaide had to fight so hard for everything that she ever achieved," said her great nephew Dr. Quentin Holmes of Marcola.

An article "Editors Gather for 3-Day Meet" published in the Portland Oregonian January 21, 1938 included Lake in the ranks as an influential editor of the time.

In 1965, she was the advisor to OSU's Theta Sigma Phi Chapter when the professional organization received an award for being the most Outstanding Student Chapter in the Nation (Oregonian, September 2, 1965.)

Without heirs or close family, in 1966 Lake established a scholarship for high school students pursuing journalism in college in her name at OSU (Oregonian, January 10, 1966.) The same year, a Women of Achievement Award at OSU was also established in Adelaide's name (Oregonian, April 7, 1966.)

Adelaide Lake passed away on April 10, 1970 at the age of 72. In retrospect, being a heavy smoker for years didn't help her health any. Even dying was difficult – she passed after weeks and weeks and weeks in Hospice Care. Her niece Ruth Lake was with her and put it like this: "Nothing in Adelaide's entire life ever came easily, and dying was no exception."

After Adelaide passed, a senior editor at the Portland Oregonian wrote a half-page article about her life and what it was like to work with her on the newspaper – a very touching tribute in a Sunday edition of the newspaper to a capable and determined woman who walked in a man's world.

Joseph Richard Burke (1875-1943)

African-American Domestic Worker

Scant information is available about the birthplace or family history of Joseph Richard Burke (1875-1943), one of the only known African-Americans at rest in the I.O.O.F Cemetery. In the geo-social landscape of the 1800s, settlers crossed paths but social mingling was limited. Commonplace in many historic cemeteries, plots for purchase were in areas designated by faith. Religious orders and fraternal organizations typically had their own sections: Jewish, Catholic, Chinese, German and Native American. The Jacksonville Cemetery in Oregon is a prime example with its multitude of sections that include "The Independent Order of Redmen" – a German immigrant society – and a "Hebrew burying ground." Social segregation in daily life and specific burial customs usually led to separation after death.

Joseph Richard Burke appears to have defied a few of these formalities. Somehow, he or his kin eluded Black exclusion laws that kept African-American migration West especially small. And Mr. Burke developed a remarkably close interpersonal connection with a prominent white family over his lifetime as a household worker.

As for his origins, little is known. Burke's birth year of 1875 was two decades after the last Black Exclusion Law was repealed in the territory. For context, when Oregon became a "free" state in 1859 the constitution at once outlawed slavery yet banned African Americans from taking up legal residence. In a nod to economics or unenforceability, the prohibition was not retroactive. This meant that it did not apply to Black people who were legally in Oregon before statehood. Did Burke's forebears travel West in the early 1800s? Or was it something else?

In fact, there were several periods between 1840 and 1860 when Black homesteaders such as Letecia Carson and frontier family Columbus and Louisa Sewell of eastern Oregon established legal residence: (1) About four years before the 1844 adoption of the first Black exclusion law in Oregon's Provisional Government, and four years after its 1845 repeal. (2) About six years after 1854 when the second Black exclusion law of 1849 was repealed.

What is known is that Burke was a domestic worker for the Shelton-McMurphy family. His grave marker has the words: "Faithful unto Death" engraved on it. Upon his passing, racist bylaws from 1872 (which were amended in 1961) forbade blacks to be buried in the I.O.O.F cemetery. Cemetery records indicate that when arranging for the burial and marker, a male member of the Shelton-McMurphy family came forward and affirmed, "He was a mulatto." Being half-white sufficed and Mr. Burke was buried in Grave Plot 5 of the Shelton-McMurphy Family Lot.

Louis Renninger (1841–1908)

Congressional Medal of Honor, Vicksburg - 1863

As a 21-year-old Renninger survived the Siege of Vicksburg on the banks of the Mississippi River during the Civil War. It is considered one of the most deadly "brown-water" naval assaults to occur on American soil.

Decades after his service, in August 1984 Corporal Renninger of the all-German Company H, 37th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for "Gallantry in the charge of the volunteer storming party" for his part in the battle.

The river attack involved 150 advance troops who, in the early morning, were to build a bridge across a dry moat and place ladders against the Rebel embankment. Union General Ulysses S. Grant chose General William Tecumseh Sherman to lead the main body of armed troops in a massive frontal assault on the Confederate fortress.

The Siege of Vicksburg on May 22, 1863 is considered one of the most tragic charges in the Civil War. Considered a Forlorn Hope - a nineteenth century military term for a charge where most members could expect to be killed or wounded - Grant lost 3,200 soldiers that day. Confederate losses were less than five hundred men. Seventy-two men in Renninger's regiment were killed. The rest were wounded. As the second straight failure of a frontal assault, General Grant changed tactics after Vicksburg. It was a strategic turning point for the Union. Grant lived to see the Confederate General John Pemberton surrender and the Civil War end on July 4, 1863.

Military records indicate Renninger suffered a shoulder and eye injury at Vicksburg. As a result of his injuries he was transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps, a branch of the army where disabled soldiers performed light duty while recovering from their wounds. Corporal Renninger completed his military service and was discharged on October 14, 1864.

After the war, Renninger returned to his family's farm in Liverpool, Ohio and married German-born Elizabeth Mann. They had four sons and five daughters. In 1870 the Renningers left Ohio to farm in Leavitt, Michigan for the next 20 years. A reserved individual, his Medal of Honor was awarded some 30 years after the Civil War was over in 1894. History tells us that Louis Renninger is one of only eleven Oregonians to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery in the face of overwhelming danger during wartime.

In 1898 the Renninger's traded the harsh winters and cold winds of Lake Michigan to establish a farm in Marcola, Oregon. In 1908, Renninger died of a heart-attack while feeding chickens and mules on his son's property nearby. Renninger is buried in Block 370 – Grave Plot No. 3.

Louis Renninger was only in his teens that fateful night when he, and his fellow volunteers, undertook a military mission that was all but certain to cost them their lives. Oddly enough, Renninger did not think of himself as a hero. Rather he simply did what any other young, single guy would do if they were asked to volunteer for a Forlorn Hope mission during wartime.

Rev. Enoch Pinkney Henderson (1818-1893)

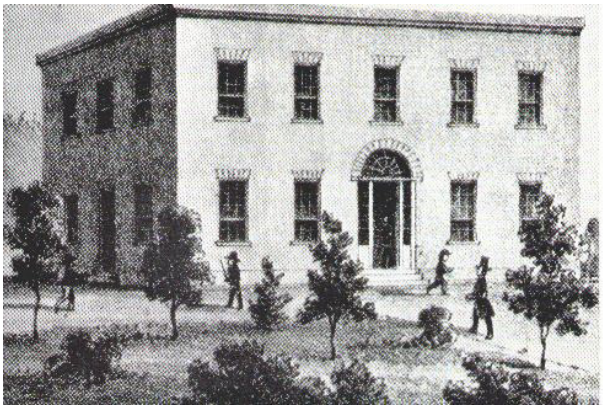
Teacher, Pastor and Abolitionist

In 1856 at the age of 38, Rev. Enoch P. Henderson was recruited by his brother James Henderson to be President of newly chartered Columbia College in southwest Eugene. He arrived

by steamer with his wife Elizabeth Schroyer and their two children and was immediately tested in his first leadership role.

Three days after classes started in November an arsonist set the building on “College Hill” ablaze. While a temporary structure was built, Henderson adeptly arranged for the 52 enrolled students to take classes in a makeshift hotel-tavern.

“It did passably well. In spite of the incommodious housing,” described a student named George Stowell in a document from the Oregon Historical Society. “The school was efficiently organized, and the branches of studies were prosecuted with a zeal and morale that were commendable. This was largely due to Professor Henderson who was an inspirer of his pupils.”



The original site and structure of Columbia College, which burned two years after being built.

For two years, the recently ordained Presbyterian minister and eventual Doctor of Divinity taught “physics, math and languages” alongside another professor who covered philosophy, geography and other courses. A second temporary campus structure was completed in 1857 but that burned down in 1858. A replacement was never built due to yet another crisis: The American Civil War.

By 1858, the majority of the college’s Board of Trustees were members aligned with a pro-slavery faction of the Presbyterian Church based in Kentucky. However Henderson was a “free soiler” abolitionist who took an institutional stand against slavery.

Henderson forbade discussion of the issue limiting such speech by any societies connected to the school. Personally it was said he avoided references to the “disturbing subject of slavery” in lecture and on school premises.

With the nation on the brink of the Civil War, at the end of his contract in 1859 Henderson was forced to resign. He was replaced by a pro-slavery "fire-eater" from Maryland. In the short-term, Henderson successfully sued the college for back-wages and re-located with his wife Elizabeth and four children to California until 1862. (That same year the college went bankrupt and closed its doors.)

Still, his teaching roots were deep, as was his faith. Henderson (now a father of five) soon returned to Oregon. First, he was a principal in the fledgling town of Harrisburg. He then served as the principal/pastor of a Presbyterian church in Woodburn, which is fifteen miles south of present -day Portland.

Born in Calloway, Missouri in 1818 Henderson was a man of conviction who firmly believed in service. Years earlier in Pennsylvania he had taught in humble country schools. He could fill in a pulpit and split the rails as needed. Now, with his advanced degree, Henderson qualified for various education, pastoral and civic positions. And he accepted them all. It was an era where a man of learning was needed in many capacities.

Known as a "righteous pioneer and public servant" Dr. Henderson was a school master simultaneously in Eugene and Philomath. While an educator, in 1864 Henderson was elected Chief Clerk of the Oregon State Senate. Throughout his life he surveyed townships for the federal and state government; and took the 1870 census for Lane County, which was still thinly populated. He occupied numerous civic positions including justice of the peace. Among settlers, if an individual was capable and in with the right crowd, conflicts of interest were of minimal regard.

In 1893, at the age of 75, Rev. Enoch P. Henderson passed away. He is at rest in Grave Plot 2 of Cemetery Block No. 218 located immediately south of the Cemetery Maintenance Building. His wife, Elizabeth Schroyer Henderson (1826-1903) is at rest beside him.

Known as a judicious and fair preacher with a “burning pen and heart,” he originally came to Lane County to be the first president of now-defunct Columbia College. Although it was a short-lived appointment, Henderson persevered as an esteemed educational leader who served the public with a moral compass.

Civil War Divides The West

Enoch Henderson (1818-1893) faced a fierce political battle in his inaugural – and only – term at Columbia College. He took a stand on slavery as the nation teetered toward civil war.

The Compromise of 1850 had recently failed and the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 made Oregon, Washington and California “free” states allotting two U.S. Senators each upon statehood. But the balance of power in government was secondary to a far more personal fear for pioneers originally from the south. At issue were resources. For example, all the gold and silver from the West ended up in the Union treasury.

“Some of the pioneers west were originally from the north, others were from the south,” explained EPCA President Dr. Quentin Holmes. “Bullets that killed Confederate soldiers were made from metals mined in California and Nevada. Timber and resources were transported to the Union Army.” The deep rift ultimately was about family ties.

“The Civil War’s reach was felt in the west because pioneers had cousins, brothers and family back in Southern states. Passions ran deep. Pro-slavery groups didn’t want local resources to be used to kill their kin,” said Holmes.

Edith Belshaw Brown Litton (1856–1929)

A First Love Story

Underneath a pair of laurel trees – just north of the GAR Civil War Memorial – you will find a love story. The trees' branches appear to be growing hand-in-hand. At rest in the cool shade below is a musical couple: Edith Belshaw Brown Litton and her first husband John H. Brown side-by-side.

Edith was born to Thomas and Maria Belshaw. They were early Lane County pioneers who crossed the plains by ox team in 1853 to open the first drug store in Eugene. On Edith's seventh birthday, her father gave her a square boxed piano that he had shipped around Cape Horn. (Today, a similar piano resides at the historical Shelton McMurphy House.) Edith grew into a talented singer and pianist who taught music lessons as a young lady.

At the tender age of 16 Edith fell in love with Brown, a prominent band director in Eugene who was far older than she. They married when she was 18 and lived harmoniously on a farm across the Ferry Street Bridge beyond the Willamette River. The couple appeared in many of the first programs to be given at the University of Oregon in its founding years.

Several years into their marriage, Mr. Brown was shot dead following an argument with a tenant farmer over a sack of potatoes. Edith went on to marry Mr. T.D. Litton, the owner of a hop yard on South Willamette Street, which was the original site of the Eugene

Thomas McCord	1,003.00
S. Bellshaw	20.00
C. Belshaw	125.00
G. Belshaw	758.00
J. E. McCabe	712.00
William McCabe	412.00

According to county tax records, in 1854 the Belshaw family collectively owned land valued at $903.

Country Club.

Mrs. Brown Litton raised two daughters and son in Eugene and Burns, Oregon. She was known as a friend to struggling musicians and encouraged musical talent in those around her, including her children and many grandchildren.

On her death bed Edith left instructions that she was to be laid to rest next to her first love, John Brown, in Block 234 the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. Today, if you pass by the Brown Litton lot, you will find a pair of lovely large laurel trees shading two songbirds at rest together.

Alberta Shelton McMurphy (1871–1949)

Debutante and Second-Generation Pioneer

Daughter of pioneers, Alberta Shelton McMurphy was an influential woman in early Eugene. The turreted green Victorian on the edge of Skinner's Butte belonged to her family and is known as the "Castle on the Hill."

Of her many civic activities, Shelton McMurphy sponsored the city's beautification movement in 1919. This included planting a rose garden at the train depot. Her daughter remembers editors chatting in the family's parlor and dinner parties that seated up to 40. Alberta was president of the school board, as well as the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Monmouth, Oregon to Dr. Thomas Winthrop Shelton and his wife Adah Lucas Shelton, in eccentric Victorian gothic fashion their second daughter was called only "Pet" until the school age of 12. At that point she was allowed to choose her own name, which she did after a favorite Uncle Albert. Her older sister was Alvira.

As a young girl Alberta "rode circuit" on horseback accompanying her father on his medical rounds. Later in 1888 she graduated from the first class of the UO's school of music. In addition to being a skilled pianist, Alberta served as a photographer's assistant and exhibited photographs from her own glass negatives.

Future husband Robert McMurphy was a young executive at the Southern Pacific Railway when she met him at age 16. When McMurphy asked Dr. Shelton for permission to marry Alberta (at age 19) Dr. Shelton wrote a letter explaining he needed more time to think about it.

"Many do not realize what it means for parents to think of surrendering the care and protection of the dearest love and pride of their hearts," wrote Shelton.

Although Shelton died in 1893 without giving consent for his daughter to marry, his widow Adah eventually did. In respect for her deceased husband's wishes, Adah remained upstairs at the Shelton McMurphy house during the wedding ceremony itself. She joined guests for the reception afterward.

Following the marriage, Adah moved to Portland in order to give the home to the newlyweds so they could raise a family. Alberta and Robert had two daughters and four sons. McMurphy went on to found the Eugene Water Company and what is now the Eugene Chamber of Commerce (then called The Commercial Club.)

At the end of her lifetime of civic and cultural activity, Alberta Shelton McMurphy saw the pioneer village of her youth turn into the City of Eugene.

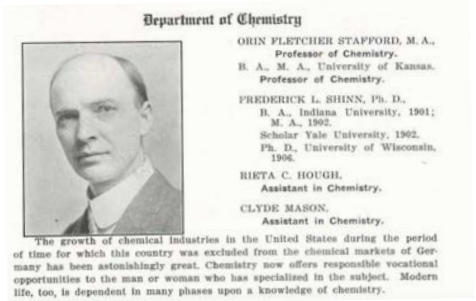
"We had rough times and mighty good times. We produced some of the greatest scallywags and some of the noblest people that ever walked the earth. We had one thing – we had a great deal of faith, and that is what made most of these good things come to pass."

Orin F. Stafford (1873-1941)

Discoverer of "Heavy Water"

Orin F. Stafford was a brilliant scientist and popular university faculty member like his father-in-law Dean John Straub. He was born in Ohio to parents Eli and Sarah Stafford. The family moved to Kansas in 1885.

After graduating from the University of Kansas in 1900 Stafford came to the University of Oregon as an instructor. In 1902 he earned his Master of Arts and was promoted to assistant professor. He married Elizabeth Straub in 1903 and by 1905 Stafford was a full professor and head of the chemistry department. In 1936 Stafford was named dean of the lower division and service departments.


Department of Chemistry

ORIN FLETCHER STAFFORD, M. A.,
Professor of Chemistry.
B. A., M. A., University of Kansas.
Professor of Chemistry.

FREDERICK L. SHINN, Ph. D.,
B. A., Indiana University, 1901;
M. A., 1902.
Scholar Yale University, 1902.
Ph. D., University of Wisconsin, 1906.

RIETA C. HOUGH.
Assistant in Chemistry.

CLYDE MASON.
Assistant in Chemistry.

The growth of chemical industries in the United States during the period of time for which this country was excluded from the chemical markets of Germany has been astonishingly great. Chemistry now offers responsible vocational opportunities to the man or woman who has specialized in the subject. Modern life, too, is dependent in many phases upon a knowledge of chemistry.

Scientific discovery marked Stafford's 41 years at the university. A keen observer, soon after coming to Oregon he took up interest in the immense piles of sawdust and other wood products going to waste at the mills. Stafford experimented with sugar production from wood, which led to his invention of the Stafford Process. This method converts the cellulose of wood waste into ethyl alcohol fuel and high-grade charcoal.

In the January 1918 issue of The Timberman Stafford wrote: "Each year wood thrown into Washington and Oregon scrap heaps equals a solid block of 500 million cubic feet... That waste would make a sidewalk two inches thick and 25 feet wide around the earth at the equator."

Among other benefits, Stafford noted that, as fuel, the realized gas would be easier to transport than the wood itself.

Throughout his career Stafford seemed at the ready to solve problems through science. When he learned that the supply of "heavy water" at the U.S. Bureau of Standards was running

short, vital research was conducted. Stafford brought in 5000 gallons of pure McKenzie River water and electrolyzed it down to 50 gallons. That heavy water was sent east to Washington D.C. for government chemists to use in their labs.

Today Stafford is recognized as the co-discoverer of heavy water, and established his scientific authority in wood carbonization. He was a fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Science; a member of the American Chemical Society; and member of Sigma XI and Phi Betta Kappa.

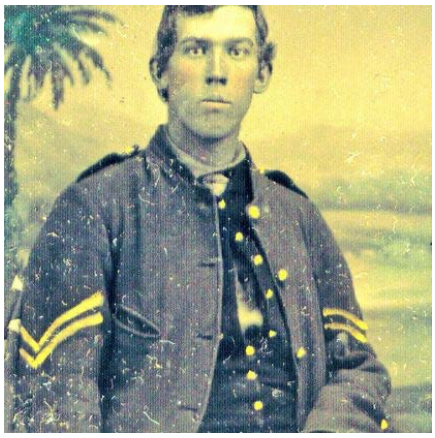
In addition to being widely-known within the university and across the country for his original research, Stafford was a Boy Scout leader. He served as president of the Willamette Council of Boy Scouts; was a member of Eugene city school board; and was president of the Eugene Rotary Club.

In later years, Stafford returned from a trip to Finland and designed the cascading tiers of the Straub-Stafford lot. The two Eugene families were like one. Sons from one family fell in love and married daughters from the other. Orin personally oversaw construction of the center marker that reads Stafford on the east face, and Straub on the west face. The cremains of individual family members are interred into a tier with a bronze marker placed over them. The most recent burial was Phyllis B. Stafford (1911-2009) who was the mother of Professor Jonathon Stafford, an active member of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association.

At the age of 68, Stafford died in his sleep at his residence. He'd retired two weeks prior due to health reasons. The newspaper obituary recognized Stafford as "a citizen who had served his community in many capacities outside his campus duties." Yet significantly, "Dean Stafford came to the university when it was small. He had witnessed its growth to one of the leading institutions of higher learning on the coast."

John Covell (1827 – 1903)

Homeless Veteran and Benefactor



Near the center of the cemetery, a 25-foot tall statue of a Union Soldier with his rifle at rest stands guard over 51 burials in the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R) Civil War Plot. It was bequeathed in 1903 by a John S. Covell who, upon his death, was thought to be a penniless Union veteran.

John Covell (1827 – 1903) came to Eugene after the Civil War ended. He seemed to have no family. When he needed it, a few good friends from Spencer Butte Lodge No. 9 of the I.O.O.F. looked after him. After his passing, a handwritten will and some $2,500 in gold were found in his effects. The will read: "Please use these monies to erect a suitable memorial for my comrades who fought on the Union side in the Civil War." It was a large sum of money in the year 1903!

When this became known, relatives popped up out of the woodwork demanding that Covell's will be overturned because, "Mr. Covell clearly was of unsound mind." The case continued in court for several years. Finally, the presiding Circuit Court Judge ruled that the relative's case was "without merit" and work on the Memorial Stature began.

The blue marble statue was hand-carved by an Italian sculpture who was visiting a quarry in Barre, Vermont that summer. The Memorial Statue came to Eugene on a freight train boxcar riding in a bed of straw. From the train depot it was hauled two miles over muddy roads to the cemetery by an 8-horse team. An item appearing in the Register Guard newspaper stated that the statue's 8-ton weight was installed by sheer manpower using block and tackle without a single scratch.

In the 1860s, Union General J.W. Geary designated the G.A.R lot in Eugene as a burial space for Union veterans of the Civil War who couldn't buy plots. In 2003 artist David Miller was commissioned to carve a replacement head that had been pulverized by local vandals. Today, the 16-foot Union infantryman stands at "parade rest" marking where the annual Memorial Day ceremony is held. The inscription on its base reads:

"I bequeath this monument in memory of my comrades of the Civil War from 1861 – 1865." The verse on the other side says, "Soldier rest, The war is over, Sleep the sleep that knows no waking, Dream of battlefields no more."

August Loyal Humphrey (1795-1880)

Pioneer Businessman and Territorial Representative

An enduring 137-year Heritage Rose bush blooms next to A.L. Humphrey's marker. It's a fitting tribute to a humble businessman who represented Lane County and the Oregon Territory during formative years.

A.L.Humphrey also served on the very first board for the E.P.C.A. cemetery in 1872 when it was founded as the Eugene I.O.O.F. Cemetery. A gentleman business owner and farmer who was deeply religious, Humphrey had the resources, energy, wisdom and time to participate in civic life.

Born in Torrington, Connecticut in 1795, A.L. was the eldest of five children. Unlike many pioneers, A.L. Humphrey was an older, married gentleman when he and first wife Sally Ann Currier traveled west in 1847. It was an era when the region was transitioning from the Oregon Territory in 1848 to full statehood in 1859.

A.L. and Sally arrived in Benton County in 1846 when he was 51 years old. Census records list his occupation as "farmer." Sadly, Mrs. Humphrey died in 1849. That same year Mr. Humphrey was elected to the Territorial Legislature as a representative from Benton County.

Humphrey apparently got in with the right crowd from the start. By 1851, the Territorial Legislature had carved Lane County from portions of Benton and Linn counties. (The county's namesake was General Joseph Lane, the first governor of the Territory of Oregon.) With 51 votes cast in all, Humphrey was elected to serve in the Territorial Government representing Lane county.

[15]*Oregon Statesman,* June 27, 1854. A letter from A. L. Humphrey to General Joseph Lane dated July 17, 1854, reports to him that Jackson County's vote was against constitutional convention. A letter of April 4, 1854, from Richard Irwin to Lane indicated that Benton County would be favorable, *Mss. Or. Hist. Soc.*

In 1851, Humphrey took up a Donation Land Claim in Richardson Township on the Long Tom River. He established a bustling trading post west of present-day Elmira near Fern Ridge Reservoir on US Highway 126. It was one of three general stores in the area that supplied goods to the growing population along the Willamette River.

Thomas Maupin	3,839.00
J. E. Glass	533.00
A. L. Humphreys	3,540.00
A. W. Wright	343.00
E. P. Wright	40.00

From 1851-1854, Humphrey served variously as a Territorial Representative for Lane, Benton and Umpqua counties. During this same time, in 1852 Eugene City was founded by pioneer Eugene F. Skinner.

Judge Enos Ellmaker, Eliza's brother, and his large family.

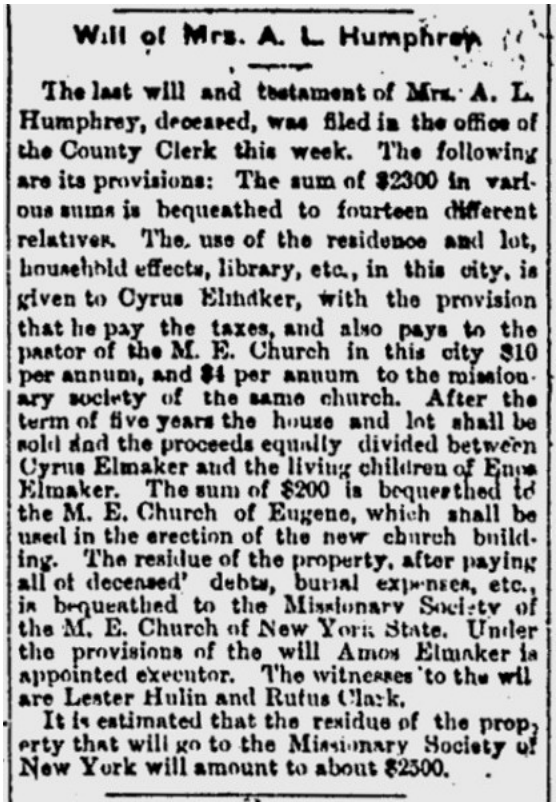
In 1855 Humphrey married Eliza Ann Ellmaker, who was 15 years his junior. She was the sister of Lane County Judge Enos Ellmaker, also an early pioneer. The Humphrey's were active in social circles, especially the M.E. Church in Eugene.

Both lived at their residence on Long Tom until called away by death. Mr. Humphrey died May 18, 1880 at age 85. His obituary in the Oregon State Journal recounts, “By honest toil Humphrey’s accumulated a good share of material in land, money and personal property. He lived a highly respectable life, and has left behind him a spotless name.”

Eliza Ann Humphrey died five years later in 1885 at age 70. There are about a dozen other Humphreys buried at the Pioneer Cemetery. Husband and wife are at rest in “Founders Square” in the lot east of Memorial Square, block 199, plots 5-6.

A.L. Humphrey: A Pioneer’s Last Will and Estate

The Methodist Church and its missionary work were very important to A.L and Eliza Humphrey. Not having children, they left a substantial amount of their estate to it.



Will of Mrs. A. L. Humphrey

The last will and testament of Mrs. A. L. Humphrey, deceased, was filed in the office of the County Clerk this week. The following are its provisions: The sum of $2300 in various sums is bequeathed to fourteen different relatives. The use of the residence and lot, household effects, library, etc., in this city, is given to Cyrus Elmaker, with the provision that he pay the taxes, and also pays to the pastor of the M. E. Church in this city $10 per annum, and $4 per annum to the missionary society of the same church. After the term of five years the house and lot shall be sold and the proceeds equally divided between Cyrus Elmaker and the living children of Enos Elmaker. The sum of $200 is bequeathed to the M. E. Church of Eugene, which shall be used in the erection of the new church building. The residue of the property, after paying all of deceased' debts, burial expenses, etc., is bequeathed to the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church of New York State. Under the provisions of the will Amos Elmaker is appointed executor. The witnesses to the will are Lester Hulin and Rufus Clark.

It is estimated that the residue of the property that will go to the Missionary Society of New York will amount to about $2500.

The official tax valuation of A.L. Humphrey’s estate was $3,540 at the time of his death in 1880. A businessman, farmer and elected official, A.L. Humphrey was known to be deeply faithful since age 28. According to his obituary, A.L. “was often seen in secret supplicating a Throne of Grace.”

Humphrey is an example of the decent wealth a pioneer could accumulate by tilling the land, enterprise and community involvement. Humphrey passed away in 1880 having lived to the grand age of 85.

When Eliza died five years later, her obituary in the Oregon State Journal described Eliza as sociable with a large circle of friends. “She was remarkably healthy and vigorous, and was never confined to her bed by sickness until two or three days prior to her death.”

Eliza’s brother Judge Enos Elimaker was the executor of the estate.

- $2300 was “bequeathed in various sums to 14 different relatives.
- The family residence and lot on the Long Tom River was given to a Cyrus Ehindker with the stipulation he “pay to the pastor of the M.E. Church of Eugene $10 annually, with $4 a year to the mission society of the church.”
- Eliza allocated $200 to the Eugene M.E. Church for construction of a new building.
- The remaining $2500 after taxes was donated to the M.E. church of New York State.

The Humphreys left behind a sizable estate, considering their humble origin and longevity.

Ingebord Jansdotter Talsater Ness (1845-1924)

Scandanavian Immigrants: From Norway with Love

Immigrants from Norway, both Ingebord Ness and Erick Johnson were early pioneers who made their way west in the 19th century, then wove into the fabric of Eugene with ease. Geographically their journeys weave a familiar story for pioneers of Norwegian descent. The lure was the Homestead Act of 1862. Scandinavians pushed west to Minnesota and beyond where fertile land and religious freedom were available.

In 1872 Ingebord Jansdotter Talsater Ness (1845-1924) came to the U.S by ship from Bergen, Norway with her parents. She was 27. Settling in Wanimingo, Minnesota, shortly thereafter she married Peder Ness. Their only daughter Rikka Ness was born in 1875. Tragically, at age 46, Peder “went into town in Goodhue, Minnesota, had a heart attack and came home in a coffin!” described their granddaughter Ingrid Carmichael years later.

Widowed, Ingebord heard there was a boarding house for sale in Eugene that catered to Norwegian immigrants. In 1898 Ingebord moved to Eugene with her young daughter Rikka and purchased the boarding house "figuring she could teach the Norwegians how to speak English."

A few years later, Rikka Ness met handsome boarder Erick Johnson and in 1909 the two married in Portland. In 1912 their daughter Ingrid Petra Johanna Johnson Ness was born at their home on Orchard Street in Eugene. As an only child, Ingrid enjoyed living across the street from "Uncle Ness" and playing with her nine cousins. Fond childhood memories include caring for goats and chickens that the family raised. For 31 years dad Erick worked for Booth-Kelly Lumber Company.

As a young woman, Ingrid attended the University of Oregon for two years while working at McMorran & Washburne Department Store as well as Russell Apparel to supplement the family income following a labor strike at the mill. In 1935 Ingrid married Lorin Carmichael, a descendent of Oregon pioneer Charles Applegate.

That same year, Rikki mortgaged the house on Orchard Street in 1935 to provide her new son-in-law start-up money for Mountjoy & Carmichael, a high-end furniture and decorating business located on the corner of Broadway and Oak Street in Eugene. No small favor in the 1930s, the venture endured until the sudden passing of Lorin in 1970.

Upon her husband's death, Ingrid became an instant business woman. With her son David, who was in law school, they held a Close-Out – the only "sale" in the store's history. According

to the Register-Guard newspaper, “Lorin practiced reasonable prices 365 days a year. He believed that sales were unfair to customers who had purchased at the regular price.”

Interestingly, Ingrid is not buried in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery. Lorin’s death came during a dark era for Eugene Pioneer Cemetery when the university took legal title and made plans (later blocked) to move the graves and use the land for buildings. However Ingbord Ness and Rikka and Erick Johnson are at rest in the Ness-Johnson Family Lot, Block No. 517, near 18th Avenue and not far from the entrance by the U. of O’s School of Music.

Hon. A.G. Hovey (1824-1898)

Banker, Businessman and Mayor

Self-made in his every endeavor, the Hon. A.G. Hovey was known throughout Oregon as a hard-working entrepreneur, public servant and business executive. At the time of his passing in 1898 he was 94 years old.

Born in New Hampshire outside of Boston, as a young man Hovey crossed the plains in 1849 with a team of oxen and company of 20 men. An argonaut digging for gold near the Sacramento River, after a year he had no luck mining. Hovey then took advantage of the Donation Land Act Congress passed in 1850. He bound a steamer to San Francisco and arrived in Portland by years end.

An all-around go-getter, Hovey carved a life for himself that was active in the establishment of the Oregon Territory and state in its earliest days.

Upon settling in Corvallis as a school teacher, in no time Hovey was appointed Clerk for the United States District Court for Benton County. By 1853 he was admitted to practice law. At

this point he'd developed a taste for the rich agriculture of the area and located his donation land claim in Corvallis. Hovey was a successful farmer well into 1861.

Milling and merchandising were early pursuits in Springfield. He married Emily Humphrey and moved to Eugene City to raise their family. In 1879 he and his father-in-law established the Hovey and Humphrey Bank, which later became the Lane County Bank. In 1892 he played a leading part in building the railroad from Eugene to the Siuslaw Coast.

Politically active, Hovey's beliefs were in line with the Republican Party of his day, which he helped organize in Oregon. He served as a delegate in the National Convention in Chicago in 1860 and cast his vote for candidate Abraham Lincoln.

According to his 1898 obituary in the Daily Eugene Guard, "Although he served various municipal offices, as council member and Mayor of Eugene for one term, more often Hovey declined offers and appointments to serve in political office."

Known for strong convictions and considered an exemplar of Oregon's Leading Men, in A.G. Walling's Illustrated History of Lane County Oregon (1884) the author described Hovey's "sterner qualities of self-reliance and courage."

"He is a man of strong convictions . His nature is positive in its character, and when he has once settled in his mind that he is right, nothing can swerve him from his course."

In later life, Hovey was a member of the University of Oregon's Board of Regents. At the time of his death he was treasurer and member of the executive committee. He was a lifelong member if the I.O.O.F.

Hovey died November 27, 1898. He and his wife Emily Humphrey Hovey (1842-1908) are now at rest in sun-dappled Grave Plots 19 and 18 in Block No. 219 in the southwest corner of Memorial Square. The couple had three children.

It is noted that Emily herself crossed the plains in 1854 with her parents from Ontario, Canada via Illinois, Iowa with a train of about 20 wagons. Emily recalled riding horseback most of the way.

Today, as a founder of the EPCA in 1872, Hovey's memorial stands tall. "When he was put in, there was no maintenance building. He got a corner lot," explains EPCA President Quentin Holmes.

"Unlike the Masons, the pioneers buried in the I.O.O.F #1 cemetery didn't come to town with money. They carved a life for themselves."

John Thramer (1865-1925)

From Apple Cart to Agribusiness

A large stockholder and founding member of the Eugene Fruit Growers Association John Thramer operated a thriving orchard on 55 fertile acres on what is now Alton Baker Park.

Thramer's contribution to the E.F.G.A allowed farmers to go from peddling fruits door-to-door with wooden carts to putting peaches, cherries, apples and figs in the cupboards of Oregonians both rich and humble.

John Thramer was born on July 27, 1865 in Anoka, Minnesota. In 1890, he married Ella May McKenney. Together they had children Lulu, Rubie and Allen.

In 1904 the Thramer family moved to Eugene. John acquired 55 acres of "stumps and brush" along the north shore of the Willamette River from pioneer John Gillespie Day. The parcel had been part of the old Donation Land Claim Act of 1852.

Thramer revitalized and further developed the existing orchard on the rich soil banks of the Willamette River. Since the 1800s, an abundance of ripe fruits along the river had been feeding travelers from Oregon City on their way to the California gold fields.

The family initially built and lived in a small "Greek Revival" house. In 1905, Ella oversaw expansion of the home to a "Queen Ann" Victorian, which was a favored style of the day. Remnants of the orchard and original foundation of the house can be seen today between the park and the Cuthbert Amphitheater.

In 1909 Thramer became a founding member of the E.F.G.A. located where the Federal Courthouse now sits. Year-round the farmer-owned cooperative processed, preserved and sold canned and packaged products they produced.

A well-regarded businessman and active E.F.G.A. board member, Thramer used an "electric alarm" that sounded when temperatures hit a ruinous 32-degrees. According to a 1911 news report, one frosty morning in April Thramer called all members of the Growers Association in Lane County to alert them of freezing temperatures. His heroic deed saved acres of produce.

"At 4 o'clock this morning, when the temperature fell to 29-degrees, 2000 smudge pots were burning in orchards and raising the temperature above the danger point," described the article.

By 1927 the Thramer fruit farm was considered one of the most attractive and valuable ranch properties in the valley. Thramer's grand-daughter Edith McMillian fondly recalled that "every kid in town picked cherries, filberts or walnuts out there during the 30s and 40s. Wooden boxes of peaches were loaded on top of wagons for processing and canning."

By the 1950s, with more than 360 members, E.F.G.A was the "state's oldest and largest independent cooperative producer of canned and processed foods." The association had plants and canneries in Eugene, Creswell, Springfield and Junction City.

On April 1, 1971 the association became Agripac Inc.

John Thramer (Top row: third from left) passed away February 20, 1925 at the Pacific Christian Hospital in Eugene. He was interred in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Block 720, Grave Plot #3. Next to him is his wife Ella May McKenney Thramer (1867-1957) who is in Grave Plot #4.

Part 2: By Decade

Traveling west by today's standards would be considered reckless. It certainly was full of peril and many perished. Reasons of foot rot, flu, dysentery to shooting made it hardly a path for any but the most stalwart or foolhardy. Starvation and getting lost on the trail were common. There were no warning signs. With plenty of obstacles and no guarantees one had to weigh the prospects and limitations against what life in the settled East offered. For these pioneers one has to surmise there was little to lose. It was the wish, the hope for a better life. Comparatively the risk must have been minimal. With gusto, a decision was made to pack light and seek a better fortune. Often based on a rumor or unassured enterprise, the imagination lured many away from their current circumstances. Extended family and friends, months and years later were also summoned by post or word to join up a venture out West. A decision was made and took a perilous journey embarked upon in the 1800s. Trust in their kin, and belief that their future was to be found in America's West.

Daniel R. Christian III (1818-1891)

Early Pioneer Who Settled Eugene

The Christian family embodies the journey West. At rest here is Daniel R. Christian III whose home is the oldest in Eugene. Now it's an historical landmark.

The known history of the Christian family originates with Daniel R. Christian I. He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark in 1762 and immigrated to North America with his parents. At age 14, Daniel served on the American side during the War for Independence in 1776.

Captain Daniel Christian II was born in Boonsboro, Maryland in 1787. In 1810 he married and then fought in the Maryland Militia during the War of 1812. Daniel R. Christian III was born in Maryland in 1818 and spent many years traveling the world on his father's ship as first mate. A young man, Christian III married Catherine Etnyre on August 8, 1839 and started a family. In 1848 Daniel and Catherine moved their growing family to "Locust Hill" in the Illinois Territory (near modern day Mt. Carroll.)

The next year Daniel's two younger brothers, Jacob and Joseph, returned from the gold fields of California with the sum of three thousand dollars each. They shared stories of the Pacific Coast that intrigued Daniel. He sold his farm and most of his effects and began making preparations in 1851 for the six-month trek across the plains. The Trans-Continental railway was still a decade away from completion.

In 1852, the couple and their five children left Mt. Carroll to join a 100-wagon train in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Their eldest child was 12, the youngest was two with Catherine expecting their sixth. Behind ox team and with two milk cows doubling as draft animals, California was the intended destination. But plans changed when the caravan reached the divide. Cholera outbreaks

were ravaging streams of more than 20,000 emigrants who, that year alone, trod West along the level banks of the Platte River. A gentleman in their party named Masters was on his second journey and persuaded the leaders to head toward Oregon instead.

Daniel and Catherine initially lived in the area that is now Hillsboro, Oregon. In 1853 they moved to Eugene and settled a 160-acre homestead located immediately south of present-day 12th Avenue and Pearl Streets. A farmer and carpenter, Daniel harvested wheat from what is now 10th Avenue in downtown Eugene to 19th Avenue. The Christian family also helped others to harvest their wheat. In an era when Eugene had no banks, Daniel loaned money person-to-person to other early pioneers so they could establish a farm or a business of their own.

"For years after the incorporation of Eugene as a town, the Christian's great farm lay on the immediate outskirts of Downtown Eugene. The hum of the thresher was within hearing distance of the County Court House," wrote his granddaughter Irena Dunn Williams in 1910. Catherine passed at age 69 on June 24, 1889. When she died, Dunn Williams recalled, "Dear Grandfather was so bereft. He was like a helpless child, but mourned silently. He lived a little less than two years after her death. We cherished their memories tenderly. Grandfather died March 17, 1891 at age 73."

The Christians were a remarkable pioneer family whose lives reflect the history of the era. Fortunately Daniel Christian frequently recounted his early years as a pioneer to relatives. Grandson Frederick Dunn Williams wrote of a conversation he had toward the end of his grandfather's life.

"He said: 'The time will come when the era of the pioneer movement across the Great American Desert to the Oregon Territory will be as remote from our descendants as our pilgrim

days from us. The generation of pioneers is rapidly becoming extinct. Soon it will be impossible to hear from their own lips such narratives as the resume of experiences of this family.'"

Today, the descendants of Daniel R. Christian III are among the staunchest supporters of the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association. Their records and financial support preserve voices from pioneer days so that current generations may appreciate all that has transpired since that time.

Hon. A.G. Hovey (1824-1898)

Banker, Businessman and Mayor

Self-made in his every endeavor, the Hon. A.G. Hovey was known throughout Oregon as a hard-working entrepreneur, public servant and business executive.

At the time of his passing in 1898 he was 94 years old.

Born in New Hampshire outside of Boston, as a young man Hovey crossed the plains in 1849 with a team of oxen and company of 20 men. An argonaut digging for gold near the Sacramento River, after a year he had no luck mining. Hovey then took advantage of the Donation Land Act Congress passed in 1850. He bound a steamer to San Francisco and arrived in Portland by years end.

An all-around go-getter, Hovey carved a life for himself that was active in the establishment of the Oregon Territory and state in its earliest days.

Upon settling in Corvallis as a school teacher, in no time Hovey was appointed Clerk for the United States District Court for Benton County. By 1853 he was admitted to practice law. At this point he'd developed a taste for the rich agriculture of the area and located his donation land claim in Corvallis. Hovey was a successful farmer well into 1861.

Milling and merchandising were early pursuits in Springfield. He married Emily Humphrey and moved to Eugene City to raise their family. In 1879 he and his father-in-law established the Hovey and Humphrey Bank, which later became the Lane County Bank. In 1892 he played a leading part in building the railroad from Eugene to the Siuslaw Coast.

Politically active, Hovey's beliefs were in line with the Republican Party of his day, which he helped organize in Oregon. He served as a delegate in the National Convention in Chicago in 1860 and cast his vote for candidate Abraham Lincoln.

According to his 1898 obituary in the Daily Eugene Guard, "Although he served various municipal offices, as council member and Mayor of Eugene for one term, more often Hovey declined offers and appointments to serve in political office."

Known for strong convictions and considered an exemplar of Oregon's Leading Men, in A.G. Walling's Illustrated History of Lane County Oregon (1884) the author described Hovey's "sterner qualities of self-reliance and courage."

"He is a man of strong convictions. His nature is positive in its character, and when he has once settled in his mind that he is right, nothing can swerve him from his course."

In later life, Hovey was a member of the University of Oregon's Board of Regents. At the time of his death he was treasurer and member of the executive committee. He was a lifelong member if the I.O.O.F.

Hovey died November 27, 1898. He and his wife Emily Humphrey Hovey (1842-1908) are now at rest in sun-dappled Grave Plots 19 and 18 in Block No. 219 in the southwest corner of Memorial Square. The couple had three children.

It is noted that Emily herself crossed the plains in 1854 with her parents from Ontario, Canada via Illinois, Iowa with a train of about 20 wagons. Emily recalled riding horseback most of the way.

Today, as a founder of the EPCA in 1872, Hovey's memorial stands tall.

"When he was put in, there was no maintenance building. He got a corner lot," explains EPCA President Quentin Holmes.

"Unlike the Masons, the pioneers buried in the I.O.O.F #1 cemetery didn't come to town with money. They carved a life for themselves."

Benjamin F. Dorris (1829-1915)

Tinner, Rancher, Mayor

The Dorris family legacy spans both Eugene and Springfield, which is not surprising given the communities' shared pioneer history in the 1800s.

Today the Dorris Ranch in Springfield is a national historic site featuring the nation's oldest commercial filbert (hazelnut) farm in continuous operation. Visitors and students regularly tour the pioneer cabin, Native American plank house and enjoy walks along the trails.

However, the Dorris family also made their mark as early pioneers in Eugene. Their civic involvement helped shape what is now the University of Oregon, the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery and Oregon itself.

At rest here is Benjamin Franklin Dorris. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1829 and traveled to California at the tender age of 10 to work in various gold mines. In Crescent City he met Cecile Pellet and the couple married in 1866. At the invitation of George B. Dorris (Benjamin's brother) the newlyweds moved to Eugene in 1867. They raised 8 children – 2 boys and 6 girls. George Dorris would later start a hazelnut farm on the family's ranch in Springfield.

A “tinner” by trade, Ben initially opened a hardware business in Eugene. In local advertisements, Benjamin described himself as a dealer for stoves and ranges, as well as preserver of “kettles, cauldrons and wash kettles.” He and his brother George participated in Eugene City Government from its inception.

Always active in political life, Benjamin F. Dorris was elected to the Eugene City Council in 1871. He served as mayor of Eugene twice: in 1875, and again in 1879. For 22 years from 1887 to 1909 Dorris continuously served as the city recorder.

In the early 1870s, the Dorris family helped sponsor the legislative bill that authorized the construction of Deady Hall, the first building that officially established the University of Oregon. Lacking funds for a roof, in 1873 Benjamin personally scavenged tin and materials in order to top the hollow shell that was Deady Hall.

Benjamin was a member of the UO Board of Regents from 1873-1882. He also served as a state senator from 1878-1889.

The family's legacy is the Dorris Ranch located on 2nd and Dorris Streets in Springfield. Operated by the park district, today the ranch is the site of “Living History” events that portray the fiercely independent men and women who helped form our region.

On Halloween night, volunteer actors from Dorris Ranch have given cemetery tours of selected graves by the light of old-time candle lanterns. At each stop, a re-enactor dressed in period attire interpreted the historical person who was at rest in that grave. Nurses, judges, Civil War soldiers and even Benjamin Dorris himself came to life! It was as though the individual buried there had returned on Halloween Night to personally tell their story.

Actually, Benjamin Dorris died at age 85 in his office in Eugene. Heart trouble was listed as the cause of death. To honor the Dorris family’s contributions to the EPC, the main east-

west gravel road in our cemetery (i.e., the one you come in on) is named "Dorris Avenue." A fitting tribute for a man and family that paved the way for future residents in our thriving communities.

Andrew Jackson Zumwalt (1832-1915)

Forebear of a Large Pioneer Family

Next to the shady fence that leads to the Knight Library lies farmer and former legislator Andrew Jackson Zumwalt. He was the forbear of one of Lane County's largest pioneer families.

Educated in a log schoolhouse in Missouri, Zumwalt was an Oregon Pioneer whose life paints a portrait of a prosperous early settler. At age 18, Zumwalt came west in 1850 with his parents – Solomon and Nancy – and ten siblings. They were part of a party that consisted of 25 men, all armed, with 25 wagons total. As the oldest boy, Zumwalt drove one of the family's two ox-drawn wagons across the continent in the year-long journey from Missouri to Oregon.

"I regard this as the most remarkable position I ever held," said Zumwalt once to a relative when reminiscing about his life.

Enduring numerous run-ins with Native American tribes along the way, the group arrived in The Dalles May of 1851. The women and children were transported to Portland in open boats down the Columbia River. However, Zumwalt and his younger brother waited until mid-summer to cross the Cascade Range, and eventually they met up with family.

In 1851, his father Solomon Zumwalt claimed Donation Land Grant property in Benton County. By 1852 Andrew Zumwalt himself took on a160-acre homestead two miles west of Eugene. In 1859 Andrew purchased a 160-acre farm in the Irving neighborhood of north Eugene. Then in 1872 Andrew bought another 400-acre property where he raised stock, particularly

shorthorn cattle. A successful farmer all his life, Zumwalt went on to acquire additional property in the Mohawk Valley and Oakesdale, Washington.

Politically, Andrew Zumwalt was a prominent Republican. He took an active part in the advancement of Abraham Lincoln's principals.

"I served three years in the State Militia of Oregon during the Civil War. I voted for Abraham Lincoln twice and have been a Republican most of my life. However, I voted for Bryan three times and for Wilson once," explained Zumwalt.

In later years, Zumwalt became an independent and held minor offices in the community including president of the Irving grange. In 1855 he was elected Justice of the Peace. Then in 1880, he served in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Close to his heart was the Eugene Methodist Church, of which he was a charter member. As a teen Zumwalt was impressed by Father Wilbur, a Methodist preacher at a Sunday school picnic. "I had joined the South Methodist Church in Missouri in 1848. Since that time I have never been able to get away from Methodist preachers."

Hearty and hale to the end, Zumwalt died following an acute attack of pneumonia. Family members remember the octogenarian as "getting more real pleasure out of life than many people half his age." In his obituary, colleagues recalled Zumwalt as, "a man who endeavored to make himself a worthy and useful citizen to the state to which he came in early manhood."

John Gibson Montgomery (1832-1931)

A Confederate Veteran

At rest far from the Deep South, there are an estimated 200 known Confederate veterans buried in Oregon.

Following the Civil War in 1860s and 1870s, many soldiers – both Union and Confederate – traveled west for job opportunities and to acquire land. Private John Gibson Montgomery, Company 5 of the 5th Tennessee Calvary, was one of those men.

In the northwest quadrant of the cemetery (3rd row in from the central path that leads to Gerlinger Hall) lays Montgomery. His is one of three known Confederate graves in Eugene.

Like a lot of Confederate veterans, Montgomery was originally buried without a head stone. When he passed in 1931 at the age of 98 Montgomery was buried next to his wife Sallie who had died in 1923 at the age of 77.

Born in West Virginia, Montgomery served as a Rebel soldier from 1861-1865. Then from Arkansas, he crossed the Plains in 1875 and settled near La Grande, Oregon. A 28 year resident of the McKenzie Valley, John ran Montgomery Brothers Logging Company in Walterville. He and Sallie raised their five sons and two daughters in Leaburg. Little else is known about Montgomery.

Today Confederate graves in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery are a reminder of the impact the Civil War had in the Northwest. Allegiances Union and Confederate ran strong. For it was silver and gold mined in the west that went into the Union Treasury back East. Prospectors and those with kinfolk living in the Confederate States of America had mixed feelings about our commodities financing a war against their families in the south. It was a dispute that swept up the entire nation.

In fact, local allegiances were strong enough in 1860 to disband Columbia College, the institution after which the College Hill area south of Downtown Eugene (on Olive and 19th) is named.

Founded in 1856 Columbia College was the first co-educational college in the U.S. But a mere four years later, the Board of Directors was heavily divided on the issue of slavery in Oregon. So much so that on June 22, 1860 one board member attacked another with a revolver and was arrested for attempted murder.

As for Montgomery, records show that he considered himself an American, not just a Southerner. The Veteran's Administration honors military service regardless of side so in 2000 the Daughters of the Confederacy helped John Montgomery's great, great granddaughter, LeAnne Boynton, order a pointed Confederate military marker for him from the VA.

The May 7, 2000 edition of the Register-Guard newspaper covered the dedication ceremony. Civil War re-enactors in hoop skirts and Calvary soldiers in grey uniform gathered graveside. There was a 21-gun salute. Children placed lilies on Montgomery's grave as the small crowd sang "Amazing Grace", "Dixie" and a bugler played "Taps."

Harrison Rittenhouse Kincaid (1836-1920)

Journalism and Politics in the 1860s

Stalwart Republican and newspaper editor, Harrison Rittenhouse Kincaid was a prominent character in the world of journalism and politics beginning in 1860s Oregon.

Like other influential men of his time, Kincaid was shaped by his early pioneer experiences.

Harrison Rittenhouse Kincaid was born in 1836 in Madison County, Indiana to Thomas and Nancy Kincaid. At age 17, Harrison – along with his parents, five brothers and a sister – he came West in 1853 on what was known as "The Lost Wagon Train." A trip of unusual hardship, the Kincaid party took a new route over the Cascade Mountains and got stuck in the deep woods

near present day Oakridge. They were eventually rescued in a farmer's field near Pleasant Hill, Oregon and were provided with food, blankets and horses.

In 1855 the Kincaid family took a Donation Land Act claim southeast of Eugene. Young Harrison spent his first five years splitting rails, building fences and hauling lumber for a cabin on the property. He also was employed by Isaac and Elias Briggs to dig the Mill Race in what is now present-day Springfield.

Imbued with mining fever, around 1858 Kincaid tried his luck in the gold camps near San Francisco before returning to Eugene to make his mark in public affairs.

By 1860 Harrison had attended Columbia College. He was the printer for The People's Press in Eugene and earned a reputation as a judicious newspaper editor. Kincaid then started The Oregon State Journal newspaper. The Eugene publication was also recognized as a leading framer of public opinion throughout the state.

Devoted to civic matters, Kincaid's political career developed alongside his editorial work. From 1868 to 1879 Harrison was appointed clerk in the U.S. Senate. At the same time, he filed stories as the Washington D.C. correspondent for The Oregonian newspaper. In 1905 Kincaid was elected Oregon's Secretary of State and served one term. Throughout his life, Kincaid was a Republican delegate in county, state and national conventions.

While at the national capital, Kincaid took many opportunities to tour various states. Visiting his home state of Indiana, he met Alberta Augusta Lockwood, whom he married in 1873 in Michigan. The couple returned to Eugene in 1881 and took up residence in the log cabin on the family's homestead. In 1889 their only son Webster was born.

Later on, Webster Kincaid and his wife had several children, the oldest of which they named Harrison Rittenhouse Kincaid (1910-2001). Today visitors will notice the Kincaid Lot has

two grave markers bearing the name "Harrison Rittenhouse Kincaid." According to a family member, the two relatives were never confused due to the age difference, so neither used "Sr." or "Jr." in their name.

In 1920, at the age of 84, Harrison Kincaid died at Webster's home in Portland. His obituary in the Eugene Daily Guard (now The Register-Guard) described Kincaid as "a man of splendid intelligence and sound ideas on all public questions with an unblemished character. He was well-known, highly respected and liked by all."

Joshua Jones Walton (1838-1909)

Helped Establish the University of Oregon

Judge J. J. Walton, Jr. was a pivotal figure in the establishment of the University of Oregon in Eugene in 1876.

A keen interest in education, in July 1872 he served as a director in the Union University Association. That organization drafted a bill presented to the state legislature offering $50,000 worth of grounds and buildings for the state to locate the university in Eugene. The bill passed in 1874.

Funded by subscriptions rather than taxes, ground was soon broken for Deady Hall. It was the very first building and had to be complete before the state would grant the deed to establish the university. However, fall came and construction money ran out before Deady Hall had a roof.

At this point, J.J. Walton, Jr. left his bench and went farm-to-farm seeking donations. A pig here, a sack of grain there, several chickens here. Judge Walton sold them in town to raise money to complete the roof. Fortunately, the fall rains came late that year.

A staunch democrat, he took an important part in the affairs of the Democratic Party in Lane County. Born in Indiana in 1838, his father had immigrated in colonial times from England to New England. In 1848, 12-year old Walton walked beside his parent's ox-drawn wagon as the family crossed the plains to Oregon. The family initially settled in Freemont California, then Ashland, Oregon where Walton Sr. took up a Donation Land Act Claim.

Due to unrest with resident Native Americans, in 1858 his mother Mrs. Elizabeth Gale Walton, a teacher, insisted the family move to Eugene. Young J.J. Walton, Jr. graduated from Columbia College, the first institute of higher learning in Eugene and namesake of the neighborhood currently known as College Hill.

Admitted to the Bar in 1863, Walton started his successful practice in Eugene. By 1868, Walton was elected County Judge. During his first term, the road was put through to the coast and the town of Walton was named after him. Walton also served as Deputy Assistant Attorney for four years and was a United States Land Commissioner. At one time, Walton was a member of the Oregon state legislature.

In 1909 Judge Walton died peacefully in his bed following what was believed to be a heart failure. His obituary read, in Lane County, "…no man occupied a more honorable position." Public spirited, Walton was known for his integrity and energy in the up building of the city and community.

Ingebord Jansdotter Talsater Ness (1845-1924)
Rikka Johnson Ness (1875-)
Erick Johnson ( )
From Norway with Love: The Legacy of

Immigrants from Norway, the Ness-Johnson family were early pioneers who made their way west in the 19th century, then wove into the fabric of Eugene with ease.

Geographically the family's journey is a familiar story for pioneers of Norwegian descent. The lure was the Homestead Act of 1862. Scandinavians pushed west to Minnesota and beyond where fertile land and religious freedom were available.

In 1872 Ingebord Jansdotter Talsater Ness (1845-1924) came to the U.S by ship from Bergen, Norway with her parents. She was 27. Settling in Wanimingo, Minnesota, shortly thereafter she married Peder Ness. Their only daughter Rikka Ness was born in 1875. Tragically, at age 46 Peder "went into town in Goodhue, had a heart attack and came home in a coffin!" described granddaughter Ingrid Carmichael years later.

Widowed, Ingebord heard there was a boarding house for sale in Eugene that catered to Norwegian immigrants. In 1898 she and her young daughter moved to Eugene and purchased the boarding house "figuring she could teach the Norwegians how to speak English."

A few years later, Rikka Ness met hansom boarder Erick Johnson and in 1909 the two married in Portland. By 1912 their daughter Ingrid Petra Johanna Johnson Ness was born at their home on Orchard Street in Eugene. As an only child, Ingrid enjoyed living across the street from "Uncle Ness" and playing with her nine cousins. Fond childhood memories include caring for goats and chickens that the family raised. For 31 years dad Erick worked for Booth-Kelly Lumber company.

As a young woman, Ingrid attended the UO for two years while working at McMorran & Washburne Department Store as well as Russell Apparel to supplement the family income following a labor strike at the mill. In 1935 Ingrid married Lorin Carmichael, a descendent of Oregon Pioneer Charles Applegate.

That same year, Rikki mortgaged the house on Orchard Street in 1935 to provide her new son-in-law start-up money for Mountjoy & Carmichael, a high-end furniture and decorating

business located on the corner of Broadway and Oak Street in Eugene. No small favor in the 1930s, the venture endured until the sudden passing of Lorin in 1970.

Upon her husband's death, Ingrid became an instant businesswoman. With her son David, who was in law school, they held a close-out – the only "sale" in the store's history.

According to the Register-Guard, "Lorin practiced reasonable prices 365 days a year. He believed sales were unfair to customers who had purchased at the regular price."

Interestingly, Ingrid is not buried in the EPCA. Lorin's death came during a dark era for the EPCA when the UO took legal title and made plans (later blocked) to move the graves. Ingrid bought grave plots for Lorin and herself at Resthaven Cemetery on South Willamette and 40th Avenue.

Today, Ingbord, Rikka and Erick are buried in the Ness-Johnson Lot, Block No. 517 on 18th near the School of Music entrance.

Ingrid Ness Carmichael (1912-2009)

Eternal Optimist

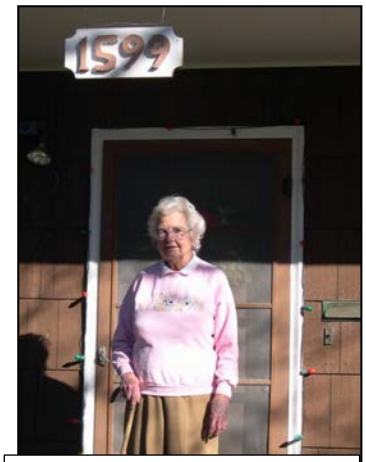
Although not at rest in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery, Ingrid Ness Carmichael (1912-2009) is remembered as the family matriarch of the Ness-Johnson Family.

Her involvement in church and civic life in Eugene left a legacy that stands today. Ingrid served for decades on the boards of the EPCA, Eugene Garden Club, YMCA and was devoted to Central Lutheran Church – her spiritual home.

She served on the EPCA board for more than 35 years and worked to help preserve the park-like setting where her ancestors from Norway lay at rest.

Former EPCA Secretary Ruth Holmes recalled that, "Ingrid was a living example of the saying, 'Be the change you want to see.' She was an inspiration to all who knew and loved her."

Ingrid and Lorin had three children: Dr. Robert A. Carmichael, a retired dentist in Eugene; David E. Carmichael, a well-known Eugene attorney; Judith Carmichael Danielson of Portland and Seaside, Oregon. Grand-daughter Mylene L. Vlasak provided Ingrid support and special care in the final decades of her long life.



Ingrid Carmichael at Orchard Street, Eugene, Oregon. Photo circa 2005.

Regarded by family as eternal optimist, Ingrid began each day saying:

"This is the day the Lord has made. It is going to be a good day." Every night Ingrid would conclude the day with, "It has been a great day."

John E. Straub (1853-1932)

Classical Languages Professor, First Dean of Students

Despite being a native Philadelphian, Dean John Straub embraced the University of Oregon and was an early contributor to the institution's vibrant student life and tree-lined campus.

In 1876 Straub earned his B.A. at Mercersberg College in Pennsylvania. He relocated to Portland in search of opportunity, and posted a flyer for night school in Latin, German, Greek, geometry and rhetoric. The next day, Judge Matthew Deady introduced himself to Straub as Chairman of the Board of Regents at the University of Oregon. That same afternoon he offered Straub an appointment at the UO and took the 4 p.m. train to Eugene.

Straub joined the faculty of the University of Oregon in 1878, only two years after Deady Hall offered its first classes. At the time, there were only three other faculty members: President John Wesley Johnson, Dr. Thomas Condon, and Mark Baily.

As a professor, Straub taught Greek, German, and various subjects as needed. He also held the position of faculty secretary for 21 years and was the Dean of Men. Straub was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Eugene Kiwanis club and the Republican party.

During his 54-year career at the UO, Straub was known more for his connection to students rather than his academic titles. Nicknamed “Grand Old Man” of Oregon and “Daddy Straub,” he helped students find housing, jobs, and even made loans to them—all of which were paid back in full.

In the early years, the University of Oregon’s campus was void of greenery, with only two Condon Oaks located north of Deady Hall. Much of the mature landscaping on the UO campus was planted under Straub’s beautification project. He and students often hiked Spencer’s Butte, a pastime that continues to be enjoyed by Oregon students today.

More than half a century of public service endeared him to thousands. Straub was a member of Central Presbyterian Church and all branches of the Masonic Lodge up to the Shiners. This, in addition to being a popular speaker for commencement addresses at high schools around Oregon.

When he died in 1932 Straub was Dean Emeritus. A memo written by Dr. Arnold Bennett Hall, president of the university, was published in the Register Guard in September 1932, along with Straub's obituary. It read:

> "Dr. John Straub has been an inspiration to thousands of students who have passed through the campus halls, and has been a friend to all. The greatness of his character, the warmth of his friendship, the zeal with which he always attacked his work, will never be forgotten so long as the institution remains. The University has lost a staunch friend."

Benjamin Franklin Keeney (1865-1935)

Deputy Sheriff, County Assessor, Legislator

Tax assessor, poulterer and flower enthusiast Benjamin Keeney was known as a "valiant fighter for any cause he believed to be just."

A native of Lane County, Keeney was born in 1865 in Goshen to pioneer A.J. Keeney and Amanda J. (Mores) Keeney. He attended school in Pleasant Hill and Oregon State Normal School at Monmouth. As was common for a high school graduate of the time, Keeney became a teacher and farmer. Later, he his qualifications and exacting temperament led Keeney to serve as justice of the peace, constable, deputy sheriff and deputy clerk for 13 years. In 1904, Mr. Keeney was elected county assessor and served three terms until 1917. In 1923 he was elected as a Republican representative to the state legislature. He co-currently served in that capacity and as county assessor through 1932.

Famous for his hobbies, Keeney was known far and wide for his passion for raising Plymouth Rock chickens and dahlias. A poultry fancier, he was licensed judge of the American Poultry Association and participated in top shows in Seattle with competitors from California, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The fine Plymouth Rock chickens that he raised, as well as his enormous dahlias were featured in Lane County and State fairs.

"You can kick me as hard as you like in politics but beware if you touch my chickens or my flowers," warned Keeney in his most quotable statement.

Politically, Keeney fought to keep taxes of small property owners down – and to see that large corporate interests paid a full share of public expenses. In general, he opposed special levies and bonds which threatened to raise taxes.

Upon his death in 1935, Keeney was survived by three sons. Details of his passing include that he succumbed to heart failure after work while talking with a neighbor about flowers.

His obituary reads, “Mr. Keeney left his office in the courthouse at closing time, exchanging a few gay remarks with the county clerk as he went through the corridor. He mounted his bicycle, as was his custom, and started for his home at on 7th Avenue West.”

“On his way home he stopped to talk flowers with a Ms. Emma Kirkpatrick. He showed her a *Sunset* magazine article featuring his dahlia garden. Following that, he was stricken and toppled the steps of the Kirkpatrick household. Struck on the head, Dr. John Kuykendall was contacted. Keeney had passed by the time the doctor arrived.”

Beloved by many, County Judge Fred Fisk said, “Lane Country has lost a devoted public servant, a man of courage and great ideals.” County Commissioner Cal Young commented, “Ben Keeney had the spirit of the real pioneers.”

Alberta Shelton McMurphy (1871- 1949)

An Early Oregonian

Daughter of pioneers, Alberta Shelton McMurphy was an influential woman in early Eugene. The turreted green Victorian on the edge of Skinner’s Butte belonged to her family and is known as the “Castle on the Hill.”

Of her many civic activities, Shelton McMurphy sponsored the city’s beautification movement in 1919. This included planting a rose garden at the train depot. Her daughter remembers editors chatting in the family’s parlor and dinner parties that seated up to 40. Alberta was president of the school board, as well as the Ladies’ Auxiliary to the Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Monmouth, Oregon to Dr. Thomas Winthrop Shelton and his wife Adah Lucas Shelton, in eccentric Victorian gothic fashion their second daughter was called only "Pet" until the school age of 12. At that point she was allowed to choose her own name, which she did after a favorite Uncle Albert. Her older sister was Alvira.

As a young girl Alberta "rode circuit" on horseback accompanying her father on his medical rounds. Later in 1888 she graduated from the first class of the UO's school of music. In addition to being a skilled pianist, Alberta served as a photographer's assistant and exhibited photographs from her own glass negatives.

Future husband Robert McMurphy was a young executive at the Southern Pacific Railway when she met him at age 16. When McMurphy asked Dr. Shelton for permission to marry Alberta (at age 19) Dr. Shelton wrote a letter explaining he needed more time to think about it.

"Many do not realize what it means for parents to think of surrendering the care and protection of the dearest love and pride of their hearts," wrote Shelton.

Although Shelton died in 1893 without giving consent for his daughter to marry, his widow Adah eventually did. In respect for her deceased husband's wishes, Adah remained upstairs at the Shelton McMurphy house during the wedding ceremony itself. She joined guests for the reception afterward.

Following the marriage, Adah moved to Portland in order to give the home to the newlyweds so they could raise a family. Alberta and Robert had two daughters and four sons. McMurphy went on to found the Eugene Water Company and what is now the Eugene Chamber of Commerce (then called The Commercial Club.)

At the end of her lifetime of civic and cultural activity, Alberta Shelton McMurphy saw the pioneer village of her youth turn into the City of Eugene.

“We had rough times and mighty good times. We produced some of the greatest scallywags and some of the noblest people that ever walked the earth. We had one thing – we had a great deal of faith, and that is what made most of these good things come to pass.”

Dr. William Kuykendall (1855-1934)

Established the Eugene Hospital

Three generations of medical doctors are now at rest in the Kuykendall Lot. One of the loveliest in the cemetery, it is fitting for the gentlemen who did much for the people in "Eugene City" from early pioneer days through the 1960s.

A child of the west, the eldest, Dr. William Kuykendall, founded the Eugene Hospital and Medical Clinic on College Hill in the 1800s. Kuykendall was born in Wilbur, Oregon March 1st, 1855. Three years earlier his parents John and Malinda (Stark) Kuykendall had crossed the plains to Oregon. Their ancestor Luur Jacobson Van Kuykendall originally came to America in 1646 from Holland. Many members of the Van Kuykendall family participated in the American Revolution.

Growing up, William’s friend R.A. Booth remembers that the two met in the frontier days “when the west was still young and ox teams drew our parents westward in the same train.”

A young Kuykendall completed his medical studies at the college that would later become Stanford University. In 1876, Dr. Kuykendall married Mary Ada Alysom, after whose death he married May Rowland. He had two sons, D.V. Kuykendall and W.A. Kuykendall; two daughters, Mrs. Robert E. Smith and Mrs. E.D. McCarty.

Known as the “dean” of the medical profession in Lane County, Kuykendall was the longest practitioner in the region. He kept up with advancements in medical science and his counsel and his advice was deemed by many to be invaluable.

More than an excellent doctor, Dr. Kuykendall served as mayor of Eugene from 1897 to 1899. Later, in the state legislature as a representative from Lane County, he was instrumental in passing laws establishing high schools in Oregon. Until then, there was no link between grade schools and college.

Dr. Kuykendall relished taking part in the civic and welfare interests of the city and state. Upon his passing, dozens of associates and fellow doctors paid tribute to his local legacy. “From his youth up, he was thoughtful and cared for others. He served thousands who entrusted their interests to his care,” read his obituary.

Indeed, generations of Eugene residents benefitted from the care of Kuykendall physicians. For example, current EPCA President Dr. Quentin Holmes was delivered in 1937 by Dr. W.A. Kuykendall. In 1966, Dr. Holmes’ daughter Elizabeth Liederman was born in the Eugene Hospital and attended to by yet a third generation Dr. Kuykendall.

In 1934, family patriarch Dr. William Kuykendall passed away at his residence on 1265 Willamette Street. At the time of his death, he was president of the Eugene Hospital and Clinic. Kuykendall had practiced medicine for 56 years, 46 of them in Eugene.

“His greatest care was the happiness of others,” remembered friends and family.

Lt. Leslie O. Tooze (1895-1918)

Student, Soldier Killed in WWI

The granite military marker here stands as a memorial to Leslie Tooze, a young man full of promise who was killed in action in France during World War I. Posthumously he was

awarded the Silver Star for his valor fighting on the edge of the Argonne Forest in northeast France.

A graduate of the University of Oregon (Class of 1916) Tooze and his identical twin brother Lamar were very active in campus leadership. Both were members of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Known as "The Tooze Twins" Leslie served as the editor of the annual YMCA handbook and Lamar had been student body president. In his first year at Harvard law school, Leslie won the Beal prize for best law brief. The brothers were attending Harvard law school when they enlisted.

After securing his commission at the Presidio, Leslie Tooze served in France as a 1st Lieutenant in the 4th Platoon, Company K, 364th Infantry, 91st Division. The brothers spent most of the war apart. Then in 1918 Lamar was stationed in Leslie's regiment in northeast France.

The night before Leslie was shot by a sniper, Lamar had a dream that a bullet pierced his brother's head between the ear and the edge of his Army helmet. The next morning Lamar warned Leslie not to fight.

As the head of his platoon Leslie had to fight. He soldiered on and was killed in the advance on Baulny Woods. When Lamar received the news, he crossed the infamous No Man's Land to retrieve his brother's body. A bullet had hit his twin exactly where Lamar's dream foretold.

UO law professor Mary Wood—Lamar's granddaughter—says the story went down in family history as a lesson to "trust intuition" and follow instincts.

Originally buried in France, in 1921 Leslie Tooze was re-interred at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery near the campus he loved. Tooze's burial was perhaps the most lavish and widely

heralded of any soldier-student ever laid to rest in the cemetery. Many notable Ducks attended the funeral. Honorary pallbearers included the editor of the *Eugene Guard*, UO deans Colin Dyment and Eric W. Allen, and University President Prince Lucien Campbell. During the funeral, Campbell remarked that Leslie held a special place in the heart of the University.

The son of Walter L. Tooze and Sadie Barns, upon his father's death in 1942 Tooze's remains were moved once again. This time to Riverview Abbey in Portland leaving an empty tomb. For decades no marker stood on plot No. 5.

However, after much effort by the EPCA, in 2011 the V.A. approved a headstone commemorating Tooze's service. Made of granite, the cenotaph came courtesy of the federal government and the year-long work of EPCA volunteers Randy Fletcher and Dorothy Brandner.

"Where Leslie is, however, doesn't matter as much as his sacrifice. The EPCA elected to mount the marker to honor the price the young man paid so soon after graduation," said Fletcher.

After the battlefields of Europe, Lamar returned home and completed the Harvard law school education he and his brother had started before the war. He continued to serve in the Army and was a two-star general by the end of WWII. Upon retirement, Lamar settled in Portland where he worked as a lawyer and raised a family.

An identical twin herself, Mary Wood said despite her grandfather's success and longevity he never fully recovered from the loss of his other half. "Identical twins can be a powerful force as a duo, and that's what Leslie and Lamar were."

Lillie Belle Ross Smith (1853–1932)

Mystery of the Above Ground Vault

Call it the legend of the above ground tomb. For more than 100 years an unmarked crypt has stood apart from all other memorials in the Civil War-era pioneer cemetery. Unusual for the region, the above ground grave has been a source of curiosity and mystery over the years.

For decades, the question of why this style was chosen was overshadowed by the question of which soul lay at rest. Local legend had it that a dying girl in the pleaded to her parents not to be buried in the "cold dark ground." After succumbing to diphtheria, her parents honored her wish and arranged for the above ground concrete tomb.

It's a lovely story, but the adult-size of the tomb and other factors had some wondering if it was in fact true.

Decades came and went. Freezing and thawing gradually took its toll on the vault's exterior. In the mid-1980s, huge running cracks developed along the length of the structure. Most of the original plaster had fallen off to expose concrete.

Lillie Belle Smith (far right, in straw hat) prepares to pluck geese for feathers.

The vault was restored in 2013. At the same time a cemetery board member Dorothy Brandner extensively researched local records to settle, once and for all, who exactly was buried there so long ago. After an extensive review of I.O.O.F, county and mortuary records, Brandner identified the interred as Lille Belle Ross Smith, who died at age 39.

She is obviously not the little girl of local myth.

Belle Smith (far right) plays cards at camp with friend Hattie Spencer circa 1900.

Lillie Belle and her husband George Smith moved to county around 1909 from Indiana. They had a total of seven children that included at least four daughters. Sadly, three of these children did not survive childhood and died before the family moved to Oregon.

During her investigation, Brandner accounted for all the Smith's children in Oregon who lived to adulthood. They are interred at various cemeteries throughout Lane County and Portland. Mystery solved. However, one question remains. Why did Lillie Bell's husband George build such an unusual memorial? On the funeral bill, the fee for "opening and closing" of the grave was crossed out. Perhaps George Smith, a plasterer by trade, was a man of simple means who was trying to afford a dignified burial for his wife. Did he have a role in creating the tomb?

One can only speculate. Attempts to locate surviving descendants to fill in the story's gaps have not been successful. For now it is hoped that the historic cemetery's only above ground tomb will be around for another 100 years.

Part 3 – Contemporaries Beyond the Willamette Valley

Legal, cultural and social restrictions of the era account for the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery's demographics consisting of mostly white settlers. One exception in Part I is the profile of Joseph Richard Burke (1875-1943). A domestic servant and man of color, Burke is one of the few known African Americans at rest in the E.P.C. Archival records from his employer, the prominent Alberta Shelton McMurphey, provided a glimpse on how the I.O.O.F rules were bent to allow his burial at the request of this affluent family. Little else is known about Mr. Burke's personal life other than

he earned regard and personal affection from a wealthy family who employed him; enough so that the Shelton McMurphy matriarch assured that he was laid to rest in the family plot upon death. Read the profile in section 1 more on this little-known story.

In the spirit of providing more context for the cemetery site and backstory about the inter-relations between various inhabitants in the Northwest during the era of Nation Building and Westward Expansion in the 19th Century, the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Association deems it necessary to expand the geographic scope of this book. When it comes to historic landmarks, there is a potential misconception that the complete story is being told. However, visitors to the cemetery today can be assured that white settlers were not the only residents active in shaping Oregon during the 1800s.

In Part 3, readers will learn about Northwest Native inhabitants, migrants and settlers who would not have been allowed in the I.O.O.F cemetery under the original bylaws, which were amended in 1961 to be more inclusive. It is important to acknowledge the existence and experiences of others who lived in the territory in the 1800s. These contemporaries saw the ships, wagons and European pioneers on the horizons. They may have broken bread. More likely, bullets were exchanged as was the case in the Rouge River Indian Wars in Southwest Oregon that escalated in the February 1856 forced removal to coastal reservations, which today are the Grande Ronde and Stiletz Reservations. In that conflict, on the trail to California Gold, the population of Rouge Valley natives was reduced from about 9500 to less than 2000 survivors counted on the reservation in 1897.

Expanding the scope geographic does something else: an opportunity is afforded to research and elevate every day, non-white settlers who were part of the fabric of "Generation 1800." The individuals selected for biographical profiles were suggested by contacts with

cultural organizations such as Eugene Asian Celebration Committee, and tribal leaders in the Siletz, Grande Ronde, Kalapuya, Pacific Islanders, Chinese-Americans, Latinx community. This collection is a humble sample, by no means definitive or groundbreaking. For example, bronco buster Jackson Sundown is a legend among cowboy and western heritage enthusiasts. Details about homesteaders like as Letitia Carson and the Sewell Family of Easter Oregon have been brought to light due to grant-funded state history research efforts. Marcus Lopius, York and James Douglass have been included for their landmark historic significance. The purpose is to provide you, the reader, with a sense of who else was living on the frontier.

In Part 3 maps are important. You'll notice that geographic lines from the early 1800s to the early 1900s shape shifted. At the start of the century America consisted of 16 states on the eastern seaboard with a handful of territories under federal jurisdiction. The rest belonged to Spain (Mexico didn't exist yet as an independent nation); France (The Louisiana Purchase was in 1803); and Britian (disputed fur trading posts around the Great Lakes). Large portions of North America were controlled by Native American nations such as the Cherokee, Creek, Sioux, Iroquois, and others. At this point in time, the "Northwest Territory" referred to land that would eventually become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. There was no such place as California or Oregon. Maps of today and the GIS component allow the curious to visit Generation 1800 burial sites across the state and region. Your journey, the locations and the biographical sketches in "Generation 1900" can provide a guide, the start of an immersive tale for the historically curious.

These profiles are intended to recognize some I.O.O.F contemporaries who were notable in the geo-social landscape of the 1800s. Primary source archival research and advisement has

undertaken in collaboration with the Oregon Black Pioneers, OSU, Asian Society, David Harrelson, Cultural Resources Department Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The individuals profiled herein were recommended by family members who generously provided archival records, photos and details about their forebears and experiences during the 1800s. Enjoy these regional biographies. Hopefully they paint the scene as you journey through the Northwest literally, or in the comfort of a good reading spot. Know that settlers arrived not to a blank territory, but to a land already inhabited and in transition.

Markus Lopius (d. 1788)

Seaman from the Cape Verde Islands

Location of Grave Tillamook-Garibaldi, Oregon

The earliest documented person of African descent to set foot in present-day Oregon was mariner Markus Lopius. A cabin boy and cook, he arrived on the ship Lady Washington having journeyed from his native Cape Verde Islands off the coast of Africa as the captain's servant.

It's a distinction Lopius earned with the price of his life. Two days after disembarking with crew to collect provisions, the party was fatally attacked by native Tillamook tribal members. Lopius died on shore of arrow and knife wounds in 1788.

On Captain Robert Grey's voyage around South America, Lopius was hired when the wind-driven vessel stopped at the islands for a rest and re-fit. Lopius' surname name (son of Lopes or Lopez) indicates he is most likely from Spain or Portugal. In the 1700s to mid-1800s black mariners like Lopius inhabited multiple social worlds. In addition to bonds with shipmates and patrons, they also forged ties with enslaved urban communities by joining Catholic brotherhoods and enlisting in local militias. Treatment, compensation and trading privileges was

negotiable for enslaved and free mariners. Due to this black seafarers had access to an unprecedented level of social mobility for the times. It was possible to purchase one's freedom and, in rare cases, become an independent transatlantic trader on one's own terms.

Ship manifests and stories told by Native Americans indicate African slaves were commonly used as labor on vessels like the Lady Washington. From 1785 to 1795, there are also well-documented references to Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Hawaiian crewmen from this era on Spanish and British vessels in Vancouver, British Columbia and the northwest coast. The Spanish presence in California and coastal activity prior to 1800 documents that blacks played an active role in pre-pioneer exploration and fur trading in the Americas during the Age of Exploration (1420-1640) through the early nineteenth century. (White American settlers didn't arrive in large numbers to the Oregon territory until the pioneer period of the 1840s and after.)

Back to the tragic downfall of Marcus Lopius in 1788. The primary source of information about Lopius' death is a log entry by Robert Haswell, a 19-year-old officer on that journey. Haswell described Lopius as "a young Black man ... a native of the Cape de Verde Islands." On August 14 the Lady Washington entered Tillamook Bay near present-day Garibaldi and cast anchor. Ten crew members, including Lopius, went ashore to acquire provisions.

According to Haswell's account, several members of the party, including Haswell, dined and visited with the local natives in their village. On the second day, Lopius and other crewmen were harvesting grass for livestock on the ship. Lopius stuck his machete in the sand, and one of the natives carried it off. Considering him a thief, Lopius followed in hot pursuit and caught the culprit but immediately found himself surrounded by other natives. Shot with an arrow, Lopius attempted to run back to his fellow crew members. Although Lopius called out for aid, by the time Haswell and two crew members arrived on the scene he was being impaled:

“Natives instantly drench their knives and spears with savage fury into the body of the unfortunate youth. He quitted his hold and stumbled but rose again and staggered towards us. But having a flight of arrows thrown into his back he fell within fifteen yards of me. Instantly he expired while they mangled his lifeless corpse.”

The crew immediately retreated to the ship leaving Lopius’ body ashore. Haswell and other members of the party were pursued on foot and over water by the Tillamook natives until they boarded the Lady Washington, which was at anchor in the bay. From the deck the men were able to fend off the natives by the "discharge [of] two or three swivel shot at them."

Imminent peril required the survivors to abandon Lopius’ body on land. Haswell’s diary reads: “Captain Gray and his crew hastily departed from the bay area after a fight with the Indians in which one of Gray’s crew and several Indians were killed.”

The failure to secure Lopius's body during the altercation is a continuing controversy. It adds to the significance of his role as the first documented black visitor to the Oregon territory. He was the first black man to step foot in Oregon and, unfortunately, the first to almost immediately die there.

The demise of Markus Lopius is part of the larger story of creole mariners in the Revolutionary age of seafaring and privateering. A valuable member of Gray's crew and the first documented black person to reach the Oregon territory, a full measure of merit and recognition is deserved.

York (~1770-1832)

Slave, Diplomat and Member of The Corp of Discovery on the Oregon Trail

York (surname unknown) was the next documented Black person to arrive in Oregon in 1805. He was a member of the first and most significant exploration of Oregon: Lewis and

Clark's Corps of Discovery Expedition, a military company sent by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the Louisiana Territory and the Oregon Country from 1804–1806.

York was born enslaved on the modest Virginia plantation of John Clark III. The exact date of York's birth is unknown. As a young child York was the companion and later manservant to a young William Clark, who grew up to establish the Oregon Trail with co-leader Merriweather Lewis. If the tradition of Southern slavery holds, that meant York and William Clark were of near the same age, dating York's birth to about the year 1770.

By the time the expedition started in 1804, York was in his mid-30s and had acquired a variety of useful skills as a hunter, blacksmith, cook, woodsman, tailor and fisherman. During the journey, York was responsible for transporting supplies, hunting for food, providing medical services, participating in scouting and reconnaissance, as well as constructing makeshift camps along the way. Rock Fort campsite near The Dalles is an example of a site where the Corps stayed. For six days they met, traded, ate, smoked, and danced with members of the Wasco-Wishram tribes.

By 1805 the Corps of Discovery had rafted west on the Columbia River and entered what is present day Oregon. York's contributions additionally included collecting scientific samples for Captain Clark such as tobacco worms and pheasants. At the Pacific Ocean at end of the Columbia River, in December 1805 York's status briefly elevated from slave to temporary member when Captain Clark requested he cast a vote as to whether the Corp stay the winter before the return trip back east. They decided to stay put, and York helped build eight temporary cabins known as Fort Clatsop, their life-saving winter quarters. In March 1806 the Corps embarked on the return journey arriving in Missouri by September of that same year.

Standing six feet tall, Clark wrote in his journal that York was strong enough to carry a deer on his back and proved himself to be a successful hunter, which indicates that he was fully armed. York's presence in the Corps also proved to be a diplomatic asset for establishing relations with Indigenous tribes. He was likely the first Black explorer natives had ever seen, and his presence offered much curiosity, as he was given the name "Big Medicine." During the difficult days of the return trip, when expedition members were near starvation, York was entrusted with the critical task of trading a few remaining valuables with the Natives for desperately needed provisions, ensuring the expedition's survival.

Fictionalized accounts have often falsely depicted York as a heroically tall or as a Sambo-like character who was a willing slave. While York was probably a large man, he was less than Herculean. In the early months of the journey, for example, Clark wrote, "We returned to the boat at sunset, my Servant nearly exhausted with heat, thirst and fatigue, he being fat and unaccustomed to walk as fast as I." It could be speculated that over the course of the expedition, hard work and meager diet likely reduced York's extra weight and bulked his physique.

The question remains: how did York reconcile his experience as a valued member of the Corps with his early life as a slave east of the Mississippi? His role on the expedition was beyond that of a plantation manservant. The psychological journey taken by York as he was able to move about freely – often respected and admired by people the Corp met along the way – can only be speculated by what happened after the expedition ended.

Despite York's critical contributions to the success of the Corp of Discovery, he was the only member who did not receive 320 acres of land and double pay at the journey's conclusion in 1806. Post-expedition accounts tell of York becoming increasingly bitter and resentful, chaffing at his return to traditional slave status in Missouri. For ten years, at various times Clark

himself "trounced" (beat) York, had him jailed, and hired him out to a "sever" master to break his spirit, according to a collection of letters Clark wrote to his older brother. The letters were discovered among Clark family papers in the 1980s and are now contained in Dear Brother, edited by James J. Holmberg.

Eventually Clark granted York his freedom in about 1816.

York's final fate is enshrouded in mystery. Clark claimed that York died in Tennessee while trying to return to his old master. Another version, based on an account by an 1830s mountain man named Zenas Leonard, described York as living out an honored life as a Crow Indian chief in the West. There is no conclusive evidence to support either version.

What we know is York was the first American, let alone African-American to significantly enable the exploration of the West, specifically The Oregon Territory. For a few years from 1804-1806 York was both slave and influential. During the expedition years, York attained a singular position of trust and acceptance within the Corp of Discovery that was unparalleled by any of his contemporaries. To Lewis and Clark, York was a hard worker and an indispensable diplomatic asset for dealing with Native populations. Still, their appreciation had its limits. Denied financial compensation like the others, York was essentially used for the Corp’s survival. In the end, he was recognized for his service with "Yorks 8 Islands" on the Missouri River and a tributary of the Yellowstone called "Yorks Dry Creek," which Clark penned on his maps.

What has endured is York's remarkable accomplishments on the frontier. They were so extraordinary that the story of his life and achievements has lasted despite the racism and exploitation that surrounded him. He provides a cautionary tale for oppressed people who are no longer indispensable to those in power.

END OF SAMPLE