



Portland, Oregon
503.246.4251

9002 SW Boones Ferry Road • Portland, OR 97219

Open 8:00am to Sunset

It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time

It was a lazy Sunday afternoon: blue sky, wispy clouds, and the last warmth of summer. September 17, 1893, Maxwell McKeechine, a poet and artist, asked Henrietta (Kitt) Carman Magone for permission to take her three daughters, Lulu, Marion (Magone), and Francis to the canal that connected the Tualatin River with Oswego, for their weekly painting lessons. Maxwell was a dear friend of Daniel Dean Magone and Kitt Carman and had taken on the artistic education of their children.

Maxwell had left his home in England after a young lady had broken his heart and he experienced intense pressure by his father to become something Maxwell detested, a physician. He wanted to paint. He fled to America to start a new life of pursuit art and poetry. He wound up in Oswego.

A genuine warm and 24-year-old charismatic, dreamy and artistic poet, Maxwell had no problem finding employment as a tutor in his new hometown. He came to live with the Magone family in the late spring of 1893 on part of the original Walter Carman Donation Land Claim. Kneel, paper and paint in hand, he marked his charges from the Carman Springbrook Farm south, down Boones Ferry, past the Bryant farm to the open fields spread out to the Tualatin River. To get to his chosen perspective and lighting, he decided to cross the canal. He chose a fallen log lying across the steep, walled canal. Francis, the youngest, was somewhat reluctant to cross. Maxwell assured her that he would be right behind her all the way. Halfway across, she slipped and fell. He immediately dove in to save her, but got caught on a submerged snag and quickly drowned. Lulu and Marion watched in horror as Francis struggled, for what seemed like ages, before she tried and slipped under the water. It took two hours before the bodies were retrieved and returned to Springbrook Farm.

Kitt's life was shattered. She had five children: Lulu, Marion, Roscoe a rambunctious four year old and two infant twin boys, Cyril and Cecil, a husband, a house, extended family and a farm that required her care.

In a few short months, she would give birth to yet another set of twins, Rexford and Maxwell, named in honor of their dear lost friend Maxwell McKeechine. Both boys were sickly infants. Rexford died within two years, followed by his brother's death a year later. Kitt's heart was broken again. She had buried three of her precious children within a few short years.

For Kitt's husband Daniel Dean Magone, this was all too much, and he spent most of his time in Oregon City in dive bars at night and drinking at Williamsette Falls during the day. With no help at Springbrook Farm, Kitt eventually fled the bucolic farm and went to find work to support her and her five remaining children.

The crushing economic depression of 1893 soon followed and Daniel was forced to carve up his estate and mortgage it incrementally until it was lost to the banks.

Kitt found various jobs around Portland. First as a housekeeper and later at the woolen mills as a weaver. Her youngest daughter, Lulu and Marion joined her in the mill. By 1905 she moved to the St John's area and worked in the textile mills.

Continue next page

Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining the grounds of Greenwood Hills Cemetery in a manner that respects the dead, honors the living, and preserves a valuable connection with our rich pioneer history. Through responsible stewardship of resources, we strive to maintain a safe and beautiful open space where people can come to remember the past and enjoy the natural world which we hold in sacred trust for the future.

Greenwood Hills Cemetery Maintenance Assoc. • PO Box 80701, Portland, Oregon 97280 • chair@greenwoodhillsccemetery.org
www.greenwoodhillsccemetery.org • Archivist/Chair: 503-781-1698 • Facebook: Greenwood Hills Cemetery

Henrietta "Egg" Susannah
Carman Magone



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provider of grave marker and
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