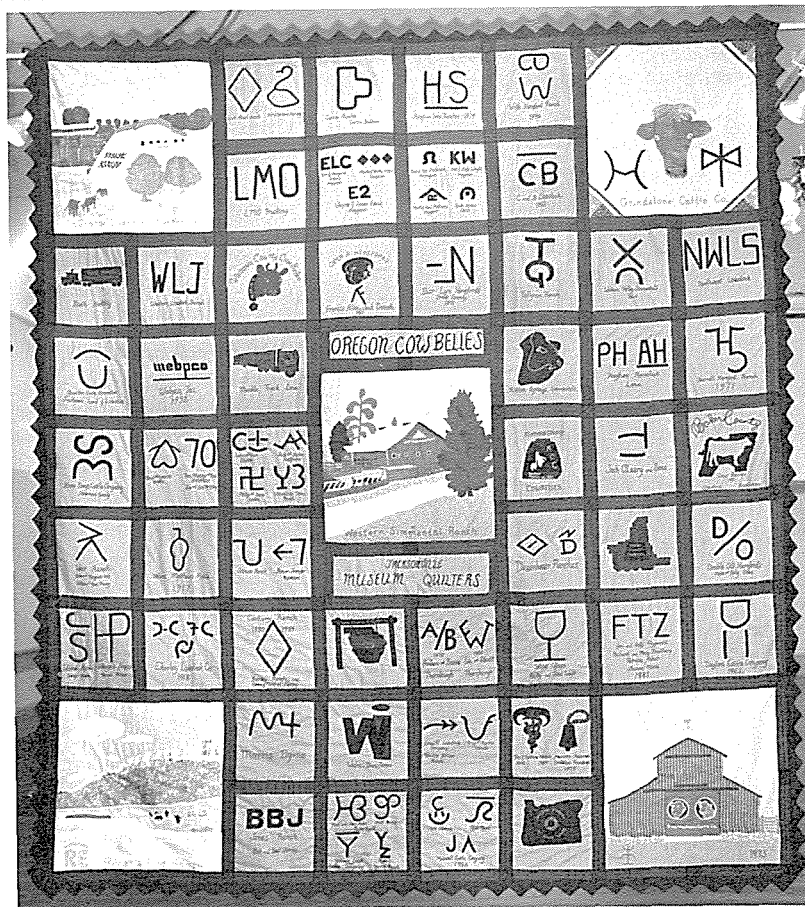


THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NOVEMBER 1986



THE JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM QUILTERS recently completed a quilt for the Oregon Cow Belles. After it has been displayed in the Rogue Valley and in Portland, the quilt, shown above in a photograph by Natalie Brown, will hang permanently in the State Capitol at Salem.

The quilt was created as a fundraiser for the Beef Raisers of Oregon. Block spaces were auctioned to state beef producers and those who bought squares could select the subject for their blocks: brands, logos or scenes. Evelyn Williams of the Lamplighter Gallery in Jacksonville sketched the designs. Dora Scheidecker, Museum Quilter, appliqued and embroidered the blocks. Members of the Quilters completed the 99"x111" quilt. The process from the original designs to the last stitch required almost a year. Local showings of the quilt will be Nov. 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Medford Center Mall, and January 17-25, 1987, at the Jacksonville Museum Quilters Block Show in the U.S. Hotel ballroom.

Cover

The winsome little girl on the cover was photographed by Peter Britt. She is dressed in her very best dress with a big sash, her very best hat with pleats and ostrich feathers and her new shiney shoes with silver buckles. Unfortunately we do not know her name. Her picture is filed away in a large box labeled "Unidentified Children."

THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Colver House, which was built to serve as fortification against enemy attack, looks peaceful and serene in the sunshine of a summer afternoon in 1939.

Uncle Sam Colver

by
Charles Sweet

A TRAVELER GOING SOUTH on the old Pacific Highway will pass through Phoenix, Oregon, and there, at the edge of town, on the west side of the road, he will see a large, two-story white house, set off by four tall columns. Above the door is a Southern Oregon Historical marker identifying the old house as the Colver House and giving its date as 1855. The pioneer family who lived there and the house have interesting his-

tories.

Samuel Colver, Jr., the first member of the family who is linked to the pioneer Colvers and the house, was born on September 10, 1815, near Irwin, Union County, Ohio. He was of the sixth generation in descent from Puritan Edward Colver, who came to this country with Governor Winthrop in 1635. Edward Colver was a member of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and he served in the Colonial Wars. For this service he was given a grant of 600 acres.

This family Colver line descended to Samuel Colver, the southern Oregon pioneer who built the house. His parents were Nathaniel and Ruth. Nathaniel Colver had been a member of the Provincial Congress from Albany County, New York, and had served as an ensign during the

*Source Material:

Marjorie Neil Helms, *Early Days in Phoenix, Oregon.*

SOHS archives -- Colver family biographical file
Marjorie O'Harra, *Southern Oregon, Short Trips into History*

Dorothy and Jack Sutton, *Indian Wars of the Rogue River*

Stephen Dow Beckham, *Requiem for a People*
Jack Sutton, *The Mythical State of Jefferson*

Samuel Colver, Jr.

Revolutionary War.

YOUNG SAM ATTENDED SCHOOL in Ohio. In his early teens, along with his brother Hiram, he was enrolled in Plymouth College, Indiana. He found the school's strict orthodox requirements distasteful and he was often in conflict with his teachers. Early in life he began composing verse, and many of his original poems were aimed at some common frailty in human nature. He frequently pointed his finger at his acquaintances who possessed the fault. His verse often got him into considerable trouble at the college and one of his poems, which was a caustic bit of poetry, was directed at a member of the faculty. The budding poet was reprimanded publicly for his defiance and was given the choice of making a public apology or of leaving the halls of learning. He chose the latter, thus terminating his scholastic career.

At 20, Sam Colver lit out for Texas and joined the Texan army under the banner of Sam Houston. He served as a Texas Ranger until after the battle of San Jacinto, which established Texan independence. This adventure was followed by a period in which he served on the frontier as an Indian trader and a scout. Once he was forced to make a solitary journey across extensive territory which was occupied by hostile tribes. He traveled on foot at night. The cactus and thorny shrubs tore his clothing into shreds, and he had to clothe himself with untanned skins of animals that he had shot. He ate the unsalted flesh of these animals for days before he finally reached a settlement.

Eventually he gave up this adventurous life and returned home to Ohio. He didn't stay there long. Somewhere along the way in his travels he became interested in the recently discovered science of Mesmerism. It wasn't long before he teamed up with an old gentleman by the name of Buchanan who claimed to be a mindreader. The pair set out on a lecture tour in which they did tricks of hypnotism and mindreading. History fails to record how successful the enterprise turned out to be, but, during their travels, Sam Colver discovered that he enjoyed lecturing the public. For the remainder of his life, he would lecture at the drop of a hat on

almost any subject: temperance, anti-slavery, womens' suffrage and the Oregon swamp-land laws, to name just a few.

Soon after the lecture tour ended, Sam met pretty Huldah Collander, and they were married in November, 1845. Huldah's parents had died when she was small and a family named Baldwin had taken her in. They did not know her exact birthday, but she was born near Middleburg, Madison County, Ohio, in January of 1823. She descended from upright, industrious English stock. Her father, Samuel Callander, had been a fifer in the War of 1812. Her great grandfather, Eliezer Callander, served in the Revolutionary War as a captain in the Virginia navy. A great uncle, John Callander, was a captain of artillery at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

SAM BROUGHT HIS BRIDE HOME, and they lived with his parents for four years at the Colver homestead in Ohio. Their son Lewellyn (called Louie, or Lew, as he grew up) was born in Union County, Ohio, March 28, 1847.

When word reached the Colvers in 1849 of the California gold strikes and the donation land grants in Oregon, wanderlust again hit Samuel. He decided to take his family to Oregon, and, late in 1849, they moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, preparatory to crossing the plains the following spring. On February 7, 1850, while they were waiting at the immigrant-train rendezvous in Independence, Huldah gave birth to a daughter, Isabel. The baby was probably born in a covered wagon. When she was about two months old, Sam, Huldah, the baby and three-year-old Louie started the trek west on the heavily traveled Oregon Trail. In the same wagon train were Hiram and Maria Colver with their children.

The journey was relatively uneventful and there is little on record of their trip until the Colvers reached Portland and the Willamette Valley. Sam and Hiram left their families with relatives on Silver Creek in the Waldo Hills east of Salem. Although they returned for visits from time to time, the two brothers roamed all over that part of the state. Early newspapers report Sam helped take the first census, and Hiram practiced law that fall and winter. Sam also prospected and took out a mining

Hulda Collander Colver



claim near the Willamette River at the spot where Eugene is now located.

In the spring of 1851 both brothers headed south to the Rogue River Valley and took out donation land claims along Bear Creek. Sam's 640 acres were located where the town of Phoenix would one day be established. Hiram's claim lay to the south of Sam's claim. In June of that year the Indians in the Rogue Valley were troublesome, and Major Phillip Kearney was called to southern Oregon. His troops engaged the Indians at Willow Springs near present-day Central Point. Neither side won the battle, but Captain James Stuart was felled by an Indian arrow on June 17 and died the following day at Kearney's camp, located by the stream adjacent to Sam Colver's land. The major called the place Camp Stuart and named the stream Stuart Creek -- later changed to Bear Creek. (Early topographical maps misspelled the name and it has been "Stewart Creek" ever since.) An oak tree that once stood on the Colver property was remembered to have had the initials J.S. carved on it in memory of James Stuart, who was buried beneath it.

BY THE END OF 1851 there were twenty-six white men living in the Rogue Valley. Sam Colver built a log cabin late that year or early in 1852. This cabin was located across the present highway from the Colver House that we see today. In the spring of 1852, J.A. Cardwell, who had served under Major Kearney the previous summer, began building a sawmill at Ashland Mills. When Indians again threatened to attack the settlers, Cardwell decided to go for help. He ran all the way to Wagner's Creek (now Talent) where he encountered Sam Colver on horseback. He breathlessly told Colver about the Indian uprising and urged him to go after the local Indian Agent, Alonzo Skinner. This agent had built the first dwelling in the valley -- located between today's Central Point and Medford.

Colver made a quick trip to Skinner's home and found Skinner in conference with Chief Sam (Ko-Ko-ha-wah), the second chief in command of the Rogue tribe. The agent, along with Chief Sam and several other Indians, went to Card-

well's mill. Apparently they were able to cool matters because Cardwell wrote that there was no further trouble with the natives for several months. Soon after this incident, Skinner resigned as Indian Agent to go into politics. The Superintendent for Indian Affairs in the Oregon Territory, Joel Palmer, appointed Sam Colver to replace Skinner. Sam moved to the headquarters at Port Orford on the coast, leaving his farm in the care of a hired man. Sam Colver at that time was running 100 head of cattle that he had brought up from California. Knowing little of the Oregon climate, he had believed that cattle could get through any winter without hay, and during the deep snows of the winter of 1852-1853 he lost most of his herd.

Sam had served at Port Orford less than a year when Palmer appointed him to the post of Indian Agent in the Rogue Valley. While he was still at Port Orford, his brother Hiram brought both their families to southern Oregon. During the time from 1851 to 1853 they had continued living at Waldo Hills.

After returning to the Rogue Valley, Sam spent most of his time working with the Indians while Hiram managed both farms. As agent, Sam worried about the natives, patched up their quarrels, tried to teach them farming white-man fashion, wrote letters to Palmer seeking funds and finally purchased a lot of items for the Indians out of his own pocket.

In that hot summer of 1853, trouble between the settlers and the Indians flared up again. At the time no army troops were stationed in the valley. So, in August, desperate settlers formed six volunteer companies of local militia and sent a message to Governor Curry requesting military assistance. By that time six settlers had been shot and several houses burned. Captain Bradford Alden was dispatched from Fort Jones in California to southern Oregon and he took charge of the amateur army. He made headquarters adjacent to the Colver farm at Camp Stewart. Soon General Joseph Lane was sent from northern Oregon to command the two battalions of local militia.

After engaging the Indians in battle, Lane talked them into a truce and persuaded them to attend a treaty meeting.

On September 10, 1853, eleven white men, including Agent Colver, went unarmed (except for one revolver and one hunting knife carried hidden, against General Lane's orders) to meet with several Indian chiefs and about 700 armed Rogue Indians in war paint and feathers. The powwow, held near Table Rock, was successful, and Sam Colver was one of the signers of the 1853 Table Rock Treaty. This treaty was in force until the fall of 1855 although neither side abided by its rules. When the Indians ambushed and killed two members of a pack train coming over the Siskiyou, open warfare broke out again and, shortly thereafter, the Indians went on the rampage in the Jacksonville area.

A few days after the Table Rock Treaty was signed, Captain A.J. Smith commenced building Fort Lane across the river from Lower Table Rock. The treaty provided a temporary Indian Reservation of 100 square miles. It was delineated as extending up Evans Creek, south across the mountains to the Rogue River near upper Table Rock, thence down the river to the mouth of Evans Creek. Under the terms of the treaty, the government promised to build houses on the reservation for the principal headmen. Throughout the winter of 1853-1854, Agent Colver and Captain Smith at Fort Lane endeavored to confine the Rogue River Indians to the Table Rock reservation. No sooner had Colver located many of the Indians on the designated lands than an epidemic struck (probably white-man's diseases for which the natives had no immunity). Sam wrote that the "bloody flux and intermittent fever" made it impossible for him to govern the stricken people. Deciding that the Rogues might survive better in their old haunts, he gave many families permission to leave the reservation.

Joel Palmer dismissed Colver as Indian Agent in September 1854. A petition requesting his retention was signed by the Fort Lane Commandant, Captain Smith, and many Rogue Valley residents. Palmer apparently ignored the petition. It appears that a disgruntled worker at the fort had written to the Superintendent claiming that Sam Colver had been raising, cutting and selling hay on the reservation for his personal profit. Actually other factors

may have been involved in the dismissal. Colver had been critical of government failures to meet treaty obligations. On March 14, 1854, he had written to Palmer that the Indians on the Rogue reservation were starving.

A NUMBER OF EVENTS were taking place in the valley during 1854. Sam Colver laid out a townsite on his property that year. Soon the town would be called Gasburg* and later Phoenix. Over the years a number of attempts were made to establish separate statehood for southern Oregon. The most serious effort was made in 1854. About that time thought was being given by the Territorial Legislature toward formation of a state government within the existing territorial boundaries. Settlers in the Rogue Valley were opposed to this and attempted to organize a new territory to be called "Jackson" which comprised counties in southern Oregon and northern California. The *Yreka Herald* issued a call for a mass meeting to be held in Jacksonville on January 7, 1854, to consider the propriety of forming the proposed Jackson Territory.

L.F. Moser, son-in-law of the famed General Lane, called the meeting to order in the Robinson House (later known as the Union Hotel, which stood on the same site as the future U.S. Hotel). Samuel Colver was elected president of the conclave. He also was named as one of ten delegates to attend a general convention at the same location on January 25. At the second meeting Sam was elected one of the two vice-presidents. The convention adopted resolutions to the legislatures in Oregon and California and drafted a memorial to the U.S. Congress opposing the formation of a state government in the Oregon Territory. The memorial was presented to the Congress by General Lane, who was then Oregon's territorial representative. Lane had written to the Jacksonville "male-contents" (as he called them) stating that he did not favor the proposed secession effort.

**Gasburg was named after "Gassy Kate," a loquacious young woman who cooked for the men employed by S.M. Waite at his flour mill. The first post office, located across the road from the mill, was named "Phoenix," and ultimately this became the name of the town.

The threat of renewed Indian hostilities the following year resulted in the Oregon delegation's withdrawing from further participation in this movement.

THE FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE FOR THE SETTLERS in the valley was built in 1854 and was located near today's city of Talent. The buildings of rough logs had cloth-covered windows on two sides, and the desks were rough plank tables. It was called the Eden School and the first teacher was young Mary Hoffman. There were about 30 pupils, ranging in age from 7 to 23 -- some of them older than the teacher. Sam Colver's seven-year old, Louie, was one of the pupils as were five of his cousins (children of Hiram Colver). Organizing classes was a difficult matter because the school texts consisted of books brought across the plains from a dozen different states. The books were as varied as the students. Louie Colver rode the two miles to school on a little white pony.

The first sawmills along Bear Creek were built about 1854. At that time the western portion of the Colver land was covered with pine trees and a scattering of oak and laurel. Within a few years the timber had been harvested and the land was no longer a forest. When the last of the Rogue Valley Indian Wars broke out in 1855, Sam and his cousin, John Davenport, commenced building a block house across the road from the Colver log cabin. They intended it to serve as a rendezvous for settlers during Indian troubles as well as a hotel and general merchandise store. The house was never used as a public inn because Huldah Colver did not take kindly to the idea of presiding over a hostelry. She reportedly said to her husband, "I'll be out in the kitchen doing all the work while you're out in front entertaining guests." And, for a fact, Sam dearly loved to entertain people. Although the hotel project was abandoned, the Colver home did eventually become a community center down through the years.

THE HOUSE, soon to be known as the Block House or as Colver Hall, was built of 14-inch square hand-hewn logs, secured with wooden pegs and dove-tailed at the corners. On the second

floor there were portholes through which the occupants could fire at Indians in case the house was ever attacked. Four of the rooms had fireplaces, and a large room on the upper floor came to be used for church services, school classes, spelling bees, dances, and all kinds of meetings. A well was dug about 30-feet west of the house with a board walk leading to the back door. Close by stood the milk house, chicken yard, smoke house, and an ash hopper which was used for making the lye used in soap. Near the wagon road was the woodshed and the barns were across the road.

The rooms in the southeast corner were finished first, and Sam's parents moved into them. Sam's mother, Rachel, had not wanted to leave Ohio and never reconciled herself to living in the Rogue Valley. The senior Colvers lived here until they died, both in 1866. The year after they had moved into the Block House, Samuel, Sr. built a brick store which he rented to Samuel Reddick. By then there were about 75 or 80 people living in the area, and a number of businesses had sprung up. S.M. Waite built a flour mill in 1855 on land donated by Sam Colver.

Late in the summer of 1855, while the Block House was still under construction, roving bands of Indians began attacking settlements in the valley. Notices were sent out to scattered settlers suggesting that they concentrate at various points for better protection. Families within a radius of about six miles from the Colver farm gathered at the Block House. They made up quite a village of tents and wagons, and many of the men were engaged to work on the construction. It was during this time that the town got its first name, Gasburg.

INDIAN WARS IN THE ROGUE VALLEY ended in the spring of 1856. Most of the Indians who hadn't been killed by the whites or hadn't died from white-man's diseases, were moved to reservations on the coast. Although the Block House no longer had to serve as a refuge, it soon became headquarters for most of the social life in the growing community. Samuel Colver became known as Uncle Sam, and Huldah was Aunt Huldah to family and friends. Popular amusements for the pioneers consisted principally of dancing parties, usually held in Gasburg's newly-

Lewellyn (Louie) Colver

built Oatman Hotel. Sometimes these affairs would be held in Colver Hall, as were traveling shows and public gatherings. A temperance society was organized and a debating club was formed, with Sam participating in both. He was also one of the instigators of Oregon's first Republican Party meeting which was held at Gasburg's Lindley schoolhouse in May 1856. (The national party was then a little over two years old.) Sam's brother, Hiram, died in 1857.

In 1860 Sam Colver traveled east to sell Texas land given him as a bonus for service in the Mexican War, to promote the need for a transcontinental railroad, and to buy fine-blooded horses in Canada. He brought the horses and some mules back to the Willamette Valley where he ran his stock near Salem as well as on his Rogue Valley land. He didn't stay home long, however. A few years earlier, new gold fields had been discovered in northeastern Oregon, and in 1861, Sam headed north with horses and mules to sell to the miners. When he found he was unable to sell the stock, he began operating a saddle and pack train and hauled freight and miners between Walla Walla and the mines.

In one of his letters to Huldah he wrote that he expected to make about \$500 a month with the express business. He ended the letter: "I shall write soon when I get something besides the ground for a desk and a stick for a pen." Occasionally he carried the miners' gold. Orson Stearns, for many years a neighbor and a close friend of the Colver family, wrote in his reminiscences: "At one time Uncle Sam was knocked down and robbed, the robbers leaving him for dead, but he was only stunned and managed to crawl to safety." Shortly after this robbery, he returned home.

BY THIS TIME THE CIVIL WAR HAD BEGUN and a call went out for Rogue Valley volunteers to serve in the Union cavalry. A camp was built on Coleman Creek about a mile southwest of the Colver House. It was named Camp Baker in honor of Oregon's Senator Edward Baker who was killed in the Battle of Balls Bluff, Virginia, on October 21, 1861, while serving as a major-general. He was the only U.S. Senator to serve in

military action while still in office.*

The raising of a volunteer company of cavalry in the valley sadly depleted the young men. It also brought about a change in the political complexion of the country. For a few years Jackson County had been a Republican stronghold. Following the departure of the volunteers there was almost immediately a large influx of Confederate guerillas that had been defeated and chased out of Missouri. From then on for many years Jackson County was strongly Democratic.

By 1863 Louie Colver and his friend, Orsen Stearns, were old enough to enlist, and they signed up in a home-guard outfit called the Mountain Rangers. After serving almost two years in this local militia, the boys joined the newly-formed Company I of the First Oregon Infantry stationed at Camp Baker. In May, 1865, just as the Civil War ended, Company I was marched to Fort Klamath. The volunteers, who had enlisted to go east and fight Johnny Reb, got no farther from home than eastern Oregon. While Louie was stationed at Fort Klamath, his father stayed home and took care of the Phoenix farm. Company I was mustered out in July 1867. Orson Stearns and 20-year old Louie remained "east of the mountains" and took up land in the Klamath Lakes region.

The homesteads the young men had filed on were among the first in what was to become Klamath County. Their properties were operated as a partnership and were known for many years as the Stearns Ranch. The ranch was located on the Greensprings highway between Keno and Linkville. According to family history, Louie Colver found the country "too full of mosquitos and too far away from girls" to suit him. He returned home to Bear Creek and his father bought out his interest in the Klamath Ranch. Sam now began spending more and more of his time in Klamath County. In 1869 he rebuilt the old Greensprings road from Ashland to Klamath Falls at a cost of \$600.

IN THE MEANTIME the Colver's daughter, Isabel, was growing up. She was a pretty girl and her admirers called

* The site of Camp Baker is marked by a monument located on Camp Baker Road a short distance west of where the road crosses Coleman Creek.

her "The Belle of the Rogue River Valley", and she was known as "Belle" to her friends. In 1871 Belle married Lewis Albert Rose, the eldest son of Mrs. Emerson Gore. They were a happy couple and for the first four years of their marriage they lived in the Colver House. After that time they moved into a house that Sam Colver gave them. Al Rose was second cousin to President William McKinley.

The Modoc Indian War, fought in the lava beds south of Linkville, broke out in 1872, and Sam Colver was one of those who tried to smooth things between the Modocs and the settlers. On December 13, 1872, he wrote to his wife:

Dear Huldah I am in good health. our attempt to get the Hot Creek Modocs to the Reservation was defeated by the rash indiscretion of Men who were more under the Influence of Stricknine Whiske, than Reason Justice or Humanity...I will try to get home by the firs of Januar I remain your

Affectionate Husband Sam Colver

It seems that he had succeeded in collecting nearly all the Modocs who lived on Hot and Willow creeks and had got them over twenty miles of the road to Linkville when they heard that a party of white rabble from Linkville was on the way to meet Colver with the avowed purpose of killing the natives. This, of course, frightened the Indians, and that night they stole away to Captain Jack's stronghold in the lava beds. This resulted in adding quite a number of warriors to Captain Jack's forces and defeated all future attempts to settle the Indian problem with a minimum of bloodshed.

Although by 1870 there was no longer need to fight Indians in the Rogue Valley, many local men volunteered to help exterminate the Modocs in the Klamath Lakes country. The war didn't last very long, but, by the time it was over, forty-one soldiers and seven commissioned officers (including General Edward Canby) had been killed. Canby was treacherously murdered April 11, 1873, while he was a member of an unarmed peace mission that had gone to negotiate with Captain Jack, chief of the Modoc

faction which had refused to go on a reservation. A few days before he was shot, the general had spent the night as a guest at Colver Hall and had borrowed one of Sam Colver's fine horses.*

The following year, on December 31, 1874, Lewellyn Colver married the daughter of another pioneer family, Jemina (Mime) Dollarhide. Within a few years, Louie and Mime had two sons and a daughter. Isabel and Al Rose became the parents of three girls and one boy. Gasburg was by this time called Phoenix, and the town was growing steadily. In 1878, P.W. Olwell, owner of a flour mill in Phoenix, made an offer to Sam Colver to buy the entire townsite for \$50 an acre. Olwell proposed to lay out new streets, widen old ones, and set aside land for a schoolhouse and a public park. Uncle Sam would have none of this, and the land remained in his hands.

Oregon's foremost suffragette, Abigail Scott Duniway, lectured in Jacksonville during the summer of 1879. As recounted in the March, 1985, *Table Rock Sentinel*, Mrs. Duniway wasn't treated too kindly at the county seat. Her next stop was Phoenix, where she received a much warmer welcome. She stayed several days with the Colvers and lectured evenings to standing room only. Louie Colver wasn't overly enthusiastic about the suffragette's visit. His mother wanted everything to be shipshape for the occasion, and she gave her son the distasteful task of driving the Colver pigs away from the front of the house so the distinguished visitor would not be offended by the sight or smell of the livestock.

In the mid-1880s tragedy twice struck the family. One night in March, 1884, Mr. Olwell, owner of the flour mill, heard someone prowling around his home and thought he was being robbed. Because he often kept considerable money in the safe at the house, he raised a cry for help. Two close neighbors, Louie Colver and Dr. George Kahler, were

*Captain Jack and other renegade Indian leaders were indicted by a Jackson County grand jury, condemned by a military court, and hanged October 3, 1873. This date may be taken as the termination of Indian warfare in Oregon.

the first to reach the Olwell house. Louie carried a lantern and, seeing Mr. Olwell standing at the window, waved the lantern and shouted to Olwell not to shoot as this was Colver. Olwell was so excited that he either did not hear or failed to heed the call and fired, killing Louie, one of his best friends.

In April, 1885, Louie's sister Isabel, weakened by grief over the loss of her only brother, succumbed to the ravages of diphtheria. This double tragedy left Sam and Huldah childless. Sam particularly took it hard and, from this date on, spent very little time in the Rogue River Valley. The loss of his children preyed on his mind and he seemed to want to stay away from scenes that would remind him of them. When the house that Sam had given Isabel and Al Rose burned in 1886, Al brought the four children to live in the Colver home. The following year Al and Louie's widow, Jemina Colver, were married. Aunt Huldah now had seven grandchildren to comfort her while Sam was off on his travels. Within a few years there would be several great grandchildren for her to fuss over.

While Uncle Sam cared little for home life and seemed to prefer the outdoors, his wife was a very domestic and home-loving person. She was considered by her family and friends as the most generous and kind-hearted woman that ever lived. Unlike Sam, who was a pronounced agnostic, Huldah was decidedly religious, and their home was a favorite haven for ministers--seemingly without protest from Sam. He was seldom home, but strangers were always welcome at his house, and the Colvers usually had relatives, friends or neighbor children living with them. Their granddaughter, Nellie Rose Jones, wrote about her childhood in the Colver House:

In the evenings, after the cows had been milked, the eggs gathered, the chickens fed, the wood and kindling arranged neatly on the front porch near the door, the supper over and the dishes washed, we gathered in the living room. A large backlog kept a cheery blaze in the fireplace. The black and white Cocker Spaniel dog and the old gray cat were stretched comfortably on the rug in front of the fire. Grandma Colver sat by the large, round center table, on which always rested the big family Bible, and she would read her daily chapter in the Good Book, following the

lines with her forefinger and stopping to chuckle, occasionally, over some passage that sounded funny, but remarking, "It must be all right or it wouldn't be there."

...A large mirror hung near the front door. Under it was a wash stand holding a blue and white toilet set, bowl, water pitcher, soap dish, and, inside the washstand, a chamber to match the set. For this was also Grandma's bedroom. Her bed, with its snowy white spread and stiffly starched pillow shams, edged with white lace, was a very decorative feature of the room. Against the west wall was the lounge, upholstered in green rep; above it hung the enlarged pictures of my mother and her brother, the only children of Grandma and Grandpa Colver who had lost these two children several years before and now had only seven grandchildren to comfort them in their declining years.

...Then, the Christmas celebrations at Grandma Colver's! The picture that stands out foremost in my mind is that of the tree itself as it stood in the bedroom north of the dining room. This Christmas tree, as I recall it, was surely more perfect in shape than any of our trees today...But then, of course, due allowance must be made for the fact that I am now seeing it through the glass of time.

On March 13, 1891, Sam left Linkville to make a business call on one William Spencer who lived on the west shore of Upper Klamath Lake. Considerable alarm was felt by his family when he failed to arrive home on schedule. Several days passed with no word from him. On March 20 some Indians reported finding his horse drowned in a water-filled pothole. The party sent from Linkville to search for Sam found that his saddle had been removed from the horse and that the horse's head was tied to a bush. Nearby an overcoat was found with letters addressed to Colver. It was surmised that, after tying his horse's head up out of the water, Sam had started for help. Being crippled, however, as the result of a broken leg which he had sustained some time before, he may have become exhausted and was unable to continue. Because of the deep snow, his body was not recovered until several months later. It was never certain whether he had drowned or had frozen to death.

Sam had always been interested in spiritualism. Late one night before his body was found, Huldah heard his special knock at the door of the Phoenix house. She went to the door to let him in, but no one was there. (There is no record of succeeding occupants of the

house seeing ghosts or hearing strange thumps in the night.)

Huldah died August 19, 1907, at the age of 84. Her obituary recognized this fine lady as "...one of those sturdy and energetic pioneers who did so much to rescue the Pacific Coast from the wilderness and pave the way for its future greatness." Uncle Sam and Aunt Huldah left their imprint on southern Oregon history. They, and many of their progeny, lie buried under the trees in the Phoenix Cemetery, located on part of Sam Colver's 1851 Donation Land grant.

* * *

Members of the Colver family retained ownership of the Block House until 1923, when Edith Prettyman bought the property and opened it as the Blue Flower

Lodge, offering travelers home-cooked meals and comfortable rooms. In 1939 Mr. and Mrs. C.G. Peebler purchased the house and operated it as a dinner house until rationing of gasoline and food during World War II forced them to close the restaurant. They then turned the house into a complex of six apartments, which they rented to wives of servicemen stationed at Camp White.

After the war the building became a museum and antique store. Members of the Peebler family have continued to occupy the house, but it no longer functions as a commercial enterprise. It does hold considerable historic interest for the tourist, however, as one of the few buildings in southern Oregon which was standing, in much the same condition, during the early struggles with the Indians and the arrival of the first settlers.

Charles Sweet



The photograph above was taken in 1973 when the house was 118 years old. There is no record that it was ever under attack by the Rogue Indians, but on at least one occasion it was used as a fortification when neighbors within a five mile radius moved their tents and wagons onto the grounds for safety. Shortly after its completion the Rogue Indians and the white settlers had their last confrontation.

Magna Carta

Liberty Under the Law



Constitutional Government in England and the United States

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November 26-December 7, 1986
U.S. Hotel Ballroom, Jacksonville, Oregon



An eighteenth century depiction of the English barons confronting King John at Runnymede. Courtesy of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

In 1215, in a meadow called Runnymede near London,

L rebellious English barons compelled King John to accept a document which demanded the restitution of their rights and liberties and sought to restore limits on the powers of the crown. This Great Charter — Magna Carta — reveals that the king had seized upon every pretext to extort money from his subjects. He had ignored established legal practice in dealing with those who had aroused his ill will. He had confiscated church property when his quarrel with Rome provoked papal censure, so that for six years the doors of English churches were closed to the devout. Consisting of sixty-three articles or chapters, Magna Carta assigned practical remedies to these and other violations of the feudal system. More important, Magna Carta embodied a fundamental principle: that government must mean more than the imposition of arbitrary will, and that ancient custom and the law must stand even above the king.

Facsimile of the Magna Carta

John, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and Count of Angouleme, for the health of Our soul, and the souls of Our ancestors and heirs, to the honour of God, and the exaltation of the Holy Church, by the advice of Our reverend fathers, Stephen, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and of Henry, Archbishop of Dublin, William of London, Peter of Winchester, Jocelin of Bath and Glastonbury, Hugh of Croyland, and Benedict of Rochester, Master Pandulf, the Pope's subdeacon, Brother Aymeric, Master of the Temple, William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, William, Earl of Salisbury, William, Earl of Hereford, Brother Aymeric, Earl of Lovere, and the noble persons, William Marshall, Warin Fitz-Gerald, Peter Fitz-Verbert, Hubert de Burgh, Seneschal of Poitou, Philip Daubeny, Robert de Roppeley, John Marshal, John Fitz-Nughe, and the noble persons of Scotland, Warin Fitz-Gerald, Philip Daubeny, Robert de Roppeley, and by this Our present Charter confirmed for Us and Our heirs, and by this Our Charter confirmed for Us and Our heirs, we wish this to be observed and confirmed by Charter.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL TRADITION

Alfred the Great	871-899	Book of Laws.
Henry I	1100-1135	Charter of Liberties: the king promises to observe the feudal code.
Henry II	1154-1189	Establishment of system of circuit courts for royal justices to hear cases. In this way customary law rendered national or "common."
John	1199-1216	Magna Carta, 1215
Edward I	1272-1307	Magna Carta placed upon statute books.
Edward III	1327-1377	Any statute passed contrary to Magna Carta declared null and void.
James I	1603-1625	Mayflower Compact; Coke invokes traditional concepts of liberty to challenge authority of the king.
Charles II	1625-1649	Petition of Right, 1628
James II	1685-1688	The Glorious Revolution, the English Bill of Rights, 1688.
Declaration of Independence	1776	Affirms that the state exists to effectuate traditional rights; asserts right to revolution.
Constitution of the United States	1787	Written definition of functions, powers and interrelationships of government institutions, to which they are obligated to adhere. Ratified in 1789, and amended in 1791 to include a Bill of Rights.



The Short, Happy Life of Henry H. Davis

Recently a surge of interest and concern has been generated for the old Odd Fellows Cemetery in Medford. Many of the plots have been abandoned for years and graves have received little care. On Memorial Day a few scattered sprays of bright flowers appear here and there among the tilted stones, but for most of the time the lots are neglected and forgotten. Yet, as a cemetery which served as Medford's only graveyard for a number of years, it is the final resting place for many prominent and worthy people.

Among them is Henry Davis, who won no national awards and made no glittering

contributions to the world. Nevertheless he left a story, not earth-shaking in dimension, but of some note when it occurred and a topic of conversation for a time before he was forgotten.

The story was told to us by Marilyn Conrad who is related to the Davis family. Henry's short, tragic life appears here as she remembers having heard it as a little girl.

Henry was the second of three children born to William and Rebecca Davis. His older brother Charles and his sister Bertha never moved from Medford, and Bertha

became Bertha Davis Hibbard and was Marilyn Conrad's grandmother. When they died, both Charles and Bertha were buried in the Siskiyou Memorial Cemetery.

The middle child, Henry, was born on November 23, 1876, in Minneapolis, Kansas. In 1888, when he was around twelve years old, the family moved to Medford and settled in the downtown residential area. Considering the early date, the home could have been located near Main and Central. A grandfather, who had come west previously, had established a real estate business in the growing town, and William Davis, his son, joined him as a partner. Other members of the Davis family also made their homes in southern Oregon. For instance the owner of the Davis Transfer Company was Henry's uncle, and several other relatives conducted business in Medford for a time.

By the time Henry was a teen-ager, he had developed a keen interest in baseball, and he probably became a popular player shortly after he entered the Medford school. His enthusiasm for the game didn't cease with his graduation from high school. In the 1890s his skill was well-known throughout the western states, and he accepted a position on a professional team.

As you can see from his picture, he played for Stillwater. The photograph bears a logo from Wichita, Kansas, but there are Stillwaters in Minnesota, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Montana and Ohio. One may take his choice. Ms. Conrad states, "I have yet to get any information on the team. I assume he played in Oklahoma; at that time they

seemed to have a wide circuit."

On the back of the photo the young man has written, "Be sure and show this to Grandpa and Grandma."

"We have one account," said Ms. Conrad, "that he looked very dashing in his uniform because he was so tall and so thin." She added, "I think he was the heart-throb of the team."

While he was on tour with the Stillwaters, he met a girl, Clara Moore, whom he had known briefly in Kansas when she was just a child. Family history has it that she went to the baseball game, saw his name in the program and recognized him. She waited for him after the game and they reestablished their friendship. On April 28, 1900, they were married.

The salary of a professional athlete in 1900 certainly couldn't compare with the huge sums paid today, even to a bush leaguer. A player couldn't afford a wife so Henry left the baseball team and brought Clara home to Medford. She was a petite, attractive brunette and they made a handsome couple. Several accounts report that she had a sweet

singing voice.

Henry played the banjo and, at various times, they sang together at church functions and social gatherings. As a child Clara was shy and carried her timidity into her adult life. When Henry brought her home, his mother, Rebecca Ann, took her under her wing, as she did all the young people in the family, and directed her in most of her decisions. Henry found a position in a haberdashery and, as a salesman, traveled around southern Oregon, taking orders for suits and coats. Clara frequently



Henry Davis

accompanied him.

In May, 1901, Clara told Henry she was going to have a baby. He must have been delighted. They were a fortunate young couple with every indication of future bliss. He had taken out an insurance for her which would pay her \$1000 in case something happened to him. But they would never see that money; certainly nothing could ever threaten their happiness. When it was time for another trip to Klamath Falls, Henry took Clara with him.

After a few days he dutifully wrote home to the folks telling them that the trip was a great success, he had taken several big orders and he and Clara were ready to come home. But first they'd stay over a couple of days so Henry could go duck hunting on Klamath Lake. Clara added a little postscript to the letter: Yes, she had managed the trip in fine order, and felt better. They would be starting home in just a couple of days.

On the day before their scheduled departure, Henry arranged for a small boat to take them out on the lake. Clara made herself comfortable, leaning against some pillows in the stern, and Henry took up the oars, putting them down occasionally when he had an opportunity to shoot at a bird. Towards late afternoon he decided he had had enough sport. Two dead ducks had been tossed into the bottom of the boat and they would make an excellent dinner for someone. Henry decided to return to the dock.

He tied the little boat to a mooring post, gathered his game, and hopped out onto the wooden landing. Before he stepped back to help Clara up to the dock, he asked her to hand him his shotgun. She picked up the firearm, but as she handed it to him, the rocking of the boat must have caused her to lose her balance for a moment and the gun accidentally discharged. Henry received the full shotgun blast in his abdomen and lower chest.

As he started falling towards the water, he clung to the boat's railing, and several men who were standing on the dock, seeing the accident, rushed to help him and prevented him from falling into the lake. They carried him

gently to a house near the lake and someone ran for help. Two doctors, Hargus and Straw, were on the scene in a few moments. Both of them realized there was no hope. They did their best to steel Clara for the bad news. In a state of shock she went to the telephone and sent a telegram to Henry's father:

Henry shot. No hope. Please come at once.

At the same time she sent a wire to Kansas to her father, stating much the same thing and asking her father to come as soon as possible.

The doctors transported Henry to the Linkville Hotel, and did their best to make him more comfortable, although they knew their efforts would be in vain. A little later that evening Henry died. The men laid his body in a casket and loaded him into a wagon. A woman from Klamath Falls, Mrs. Butler, volunteered to ride back to Medford with Clara. They headed back in the dark of night on May 29th. Two days later the Baptist Church in Medford held a service for him.

Henry lay in state in a casket lined with the white silk from Clara's wedding dress. After the minister's eulogy, and after the friends and family had looked at Henry for the last time, he was buried in the old cemetery in Medford.

Naturally Clara was stunned by the experience. Overcome with grief and guilt, she was inconsolable. In a day or two she received a message from her father:

I am coming to Medford. Wait for me.

Of course she waited. There was nothing else she could do.

When he arrived, the family held a discussion and Clara's father decided to take her back to Kansas. As her parent he naturally made the decision of what the poor bereaved girl should do. Ms. Conrad thinks William and Rebecca Davis would surely have wished to keep her in their home as a beloved daughter-in-law and be on hand when her child was born. She of course was unable to make a decision and probably accepted her father's order because she had been in the habit of doing so.

There were no reasons given for Clara's move. At the time she was desperately ill and, lying on a stretcher, she was

put on the train, and she and her father returned to Kansas.

She was in a critical state when she left Medford and there must have been no improvement in her condition. In personal papers kept by the Davis family are bills for treatment by doctors in Iola, Kansas. These statements are dated as early as June 11, showing that Clara had been home only a short time before the doctors were summoned.

In the meantime the Davis family heard nothing. They did not know Clara's whereabouts or even that she had reached Kansas. There was never an answer to their letters begging for a word about her condition. It was understandable that she was so ill she was unable to write, but the fact that her parents remained silent was beyond comprehension.

Letter after letter was posted, but no answer was forthcoming, and time for the baby's birth came and passed. Eventually William Davis, remembering that Clara had told the family she had been a member of the Presbyterian Church, sent a letter to a minister in Iola, Kansas, begging for some information about Clara.

The minister soon sent his reply. Clara had been under doctor's care until July 10, 1901, when she died. Her baby died with her. The physicians declared she had been terribly distraught, but they were unable to name the malady which had brought about death. Clara, who was nineteen years old, was buried on the afternoon of July 11, 1901. Her baby was buried the day before.

And this was all the information William and Rebecca Davis were able to discover about Clara's last days. Years

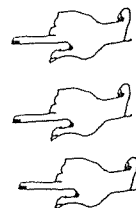


Henry and Clara

later, Marilyn Conrad, still curious, wrote to the courthouse in Iola requesting any information they might have. She received in return a probate packet. The information in the file contained no startling facts, but the contents gave an ending to the tragic story. The thousand dollars which had come to Clara as insurance from Henry was passed, only too soon, to her parents. Out of that sum, money was taken to pay the doctors' bills, the undertaker -- who supplied a horse-drawn hearse and the casket -- a plot in an unnamed cemetery, a grave-

You want answers?
Here is just the thing for you!
Jeff Lalande, Archeologist/Historian for the Rogue River National Forest, will be teaching a course, *History of the Pacific Northwest* (H.S.T. 478) which will cover these subjects and much more. The class will be offered by the Southern Oregon State College during the Winter Quarter, and will start on January 7. It may be taken as a continuing education class or for three hours of regular college credit. The subject is similar to Jeff's *History of Southern Oregon*, but will present a much wider scope and will focus particularly on the early history of the territory, exploration, pioneer settlement and the role played by the Hudson's Bay Company. The class will be taught in Medford at the North Medford Senior High on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. For more information on registration and costs, contact the SOSOC Medford Campus/Mary Phipps Center, telephone 772-2980.

BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD, WHAT LURED THE
WHITE MAN TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST?
WHAT ACTUALLY CAUSED THE WHITMAN MASSACRE?
WHY DID GREAT BRITAIN WITHDRAW HER CLAIMS TO
THE OREGON COUNTRY?



whether Clara's baby was a boy or a girl, and the papers did not contain a statement telling where Clara and her baby were buried. The Davis family has given up hoping that time will disclose the missing parts of the story.

Raymond Lewis

digger, rental for mourning clothes for Clara's parents, and a cord of wood for the kitchen stove. Paid also were claims made against Henry's estate by two men who had ordered suits of clothes during Henry's last business trip in Klamath Falls. The probate packet did not reveal

This receipt is a copy of a statement given to Clara when she paid the sum of \$15 for Henry's burial plot at the Odd Fellows cemetery.

1501
Medford Or June 20 " 1897
Received from Mrs Henry Lewis
\$15.00
Set-2 Block 117 Odd Fellows Cemetery
Gus Macey
deery



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Authentic Reproductions

OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

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LARGE SIZE PAPER DOLLS

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Retail - \$15.00
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Gold Panning Kits

METAL & PLASTIC KITS

Complete with Gold inside each kit.

Metal Pan - Retail - \$10.00
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2' X 1½' ON PARCHMENT PAPER

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Retail - \$6.00
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The Ideal Gift for Miniature Collector.

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Lanterns

Buckets

etc. - Wheelbarrows - etc.



The Shones move in; the Charleys move out. William and Andromeda stand in front of the house. Kate, a niece, leans on the top step, Janet Shone sits on the front porch Bessy is standing by the fence and Joe, holding Joey, stands at the gate.

WAVERLY COTTAGE

THE SHONE-CHARLEY HOUSE

Since its first beginnings in 1884, the city of Medford, Oregon, had been a thriving, aggressive, on-the-jump railroad center. As the town grew, it showed little concern for its neighbors, absorbing the railway depot, the title of county seat, the courthouse and several of the schools and industries, becoming in the process the busy hub of southern Oregon. At the same time it absorbed its own history, replacing its traditional buildings with new ones and remodeling and altering its more substantial business section to keep up with fashion. The city, as a consequence,

has few historic buildings that reveal the charm of its early times. Fortunately the Waverly Cottage has, for the most part, escaped the wreckers and the rebuilders, and is therefore worth attention.

After periods of neglect and vandalism, the house by 1980 stood abandoned, with broken windows, holes in the walls and doors kicked in. In 1981 it was purchased by David Fisse who saw at once the possibility of returning it to its original state. Immediately after he had bought it, Fisse started the slow process of interior restoration, and took as a part-

ner, Dee Ann Hill, who was later to become his wife.

In 1983 they began work on the exterior. Completion of the outside work required almost three years but the labor included foundation repairs, front and back porch reconstruction and roof replacement. Some of the exterior painting was done by men who were hired from the Gospel Mission, but the rest of the work was done by Dee Ann and David Fisse who studied old photographs of the house so they could faithfully reproduce the original Eastlake details and ornamentation.

In an application for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, the authentic decor is praised:

It is an example of the Queen Anne/Eastlake style and retains much of its original decorative elements and interior and exterior design features ... Historic photographs reveal the complexity of the design which included a porch embellished with a multi-faceted, onion-domed bay ... A remarkable fence composed of pierced and jig sawn pieces complimented the elevations.

Today the fence is gone and, during the twenties, the onion dome was removed, the ornate front porch replaced and much of the gingerbread eliminated.

David and Dee Ann Fisse have opened the cottage as Medford's only Bed and Breakfast house in the downtown area. During the summer they conducted tours through the house and gardens.

They have completed a great deal of research on the property, and have prepared a history of the house. We are grateful to them for sharing with us the story of the Waverly Cottage.

ARCHITECT

W.J. Bennet designed the house in 1895. He was an established architect and did not live in the house. His advertisement in the *Medford Mail* read:

W.J. BENNETT

ARCHITECT & SUPERINTENDENT

Plans, specifications and details.
Perspective drawings and blueprints
Ventilation and drainage a specialty.

In 1895 he designed the S. Rosenthal brick block adjoining Mr. Phipps' two-story building (Swem's). He also designed homes for A.S. Hammond, A.P. Green, J.A. Willeke, and Crane and Childs' Livery Stables, all in Medford. In 1896 he designed the courthouse in Yreka, and during the same year designed and helped build the entire town of Sisson (Mount Shasta), California, after it had burned down.

While working in Medford he extended his architectural activities to include an Egyptian-style museum in Auburn, New York, and a brick building in Ashland on Judge Hensel's property which contained five store buildings, a bank and a hall, as well as several offices on the second floor.

BUILDER

Joseph Shone arrived in New York in 1885. A young man of sixteen, he came from England where he had been a laborer and craftsman. In America he was influenced by tales of opportunities to be found in the west. These stories had continued for thirty years, ever since the gold rush, and he soon joined the western movement, stopping for a time in Denver. There he met Janet Hillis and they were married.

From Colorado the young couple gravitated to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Joseph Shone opened a planing mill. In Albuquerque they had their first child, Elizabeth "Bessy" Shone.

We have no record of the family's stay in New Mexico. They could have been there no longer than eight years; by 1895 they were in southern Oregon. In January of that year the following item appeared in the *Medford Mail*:

Joe Shone and his planning (sic) mill are doing a splendid business these times. He has the mill thoroughly renovated and is turning out some excellent work. [He will accept] work such as the manufacture of sash, doors and house trimmings in Medford.

Shone's mill was located in downtown Medford. He specialized in moldings, doors, sashes, trim, windows, wallpaper, paint and stain and rustic, rough and milled lumber. Many builders in Medford

used his millwork. In his spare moments he manufactured furniture.

In 1895 he paid \$200 for the vacant lots on the corner of Fourth and Grape. This was a pretty steep price to pay for unimproved property, but the original owner was Charley Nickell, editor of *The Jacksonville Democratic Times*, and he was well known for his shrewd business dealings. On these lots Shone had decided to build a really fine home and use examples of his craftsmanship in the construction and detail. He commissioned W.J. Bennet to draw architectural plans. The *Medford Mail*, January 10, 1896, reported:

Joseph Shone is putting on some good work these days on his new residence, which, when completed, will be one of the best and prettiest buildings in Medford. Joe, being a carpenter, and a good one, is leaving not a thing undone that would help the beauty and convenience. One especially fine feature is that the building stands well up off the ground, thus permitting grading of the splendid grounds around it. The finish of the building is to be of a style and architecture very much out of the ordinary, and when completed, it cannot fail to attract much favorable comment.

When the showplace was finished, the Shone family, Joseph and Janet, and their children, Bessie and Joey, moved in. Joseph attached wooden letters, "Waverly Cottage," to the front of the house. "Research has failed to attribute the name to the Stones or to shed light in its meaning. It has been suspected, however, that the name relates in some way to the Waverley novels of Sir Walter Scott."*

In 1901 Shone's mill burned to the ground. He did not rebuild it, but instead sold the Waverly Cottage, the out-buildings, the lot next door and other

**Application to the National Register*



Joseph and Joey Shone

pieces of prime property in Medford, including the site of his mill, to William Charley. Shone received the sum of \$1050 in gold coin for all of his property.

The Shones then moved to South Bend, Washington where Joseph operated a furniture store. (It has since been torn down and a concrete building housing the Pacific Oyster Company has been erected in its place.) In South Bend Joseph and Janet had their third child, Hugh. Joey died at 16 of spinal meningitis. The other two children, Bessy and Hugh never married. Eventually Bessy was the last survivor. She had pharmacy licenses in Washington and California, but she lived in South Bend until 1978, when she died shortly after a kitchen fire.



Bessy Shone (ca 1915)



Janet Shone (ca 1888)

Pictures are from the Pacific Historical Society, South Bend, Washington

A collection of Shone family photographs, including an early picture of the Waverly Cottage, was bequeathed to the Pacific Historical Society in Washington. There are no surviving Shones.

THE SECOND OWNERS*

William Charley married Andrumeda Hurst in Hursttown, Indiana, in 1852. They had five children: Nimrod Newel, Lemon Case, Woodford Merritt, Cassius Clay and Minnie. The family lived with Andrumeda's parents at The Hurst Ranch, famous in the state for its stock of well-bred horses.

* This feature is the story of Waverly Cottage. No effort has been made here to present a history of William Charley and his family. This project would be far too formidable. Descendants of the Charley family have traced their line back to 1211 AD, when the name was *DeChorleigh*, and a chronological record, beginning with George A. Charley, a Revolutionary War soldier, has been compiled by Geraldine L. Deter, a family member. Ms. Deter wrote: "*There have been listed 493 descendants at this date (1974). The number is incomplete as no contact has yet been made with several families.*" The book includes over 200 pages.

The proper name, Andrumeda, has most often appeared as Andromeda, but in the family Bible the former spelling is used.

When the Civil War broke out, William Charley enlisted in the Third Volunteer Cavalry of the Union Army. At the Battle of Winchester, as he fought along with General "Fighting Joe" Hooker, his horse balked at jumping a high stone wall and he was thrown, his right arm broken and his left leg injured. He was sent to the Chesapeake Bay Hospital, but, after a stay of three months, his injuries did not heal and he was discharged from the service.

While he was away, serving with the fighting forces, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and his Raiders, took over the Hurst Ranch. They occupied most of the house and made Andrumeda cook for them. Lem, a child of three, went around calling them "Damn Rebels," a name which amused them greatly. Nimrod, 12, the oldest son, slipped out and hid the prize stallion, an English thoroughbred, "John Bull," in a thicket along Indian Creek, until the raiders had gone. When rebels moved on, they left their spent and inferior nags, and took every horse on the ranch, except John Bull, the most valuable.

After an extended stay at The Hurst

Ranch, William still suffered from his painful injuries, but he reenlisted as a bugler in the Thirteenth Volunteer Cavalry, and soon became Regimental Bugler. He later told his grandchildren, "When I tried out for that rank, I blew the blamed things so loud I busted 'em; three to be exact."

William knew personally many of the generals of the Civil War. General George Custer was a close friend. His story of Custer's Last Stand is contrary to the one given in our history books. William was told that General Reno, who was camped near enough to hear the first shots, could have sent reinforcements and prevented the massacre. Several of General Reno's men allegedly pleaded with him to help, but Reno quieted them, saying the shooting was only target practice. But at a later inquiry, Reno said he was short of ammunition and was waiting for more.

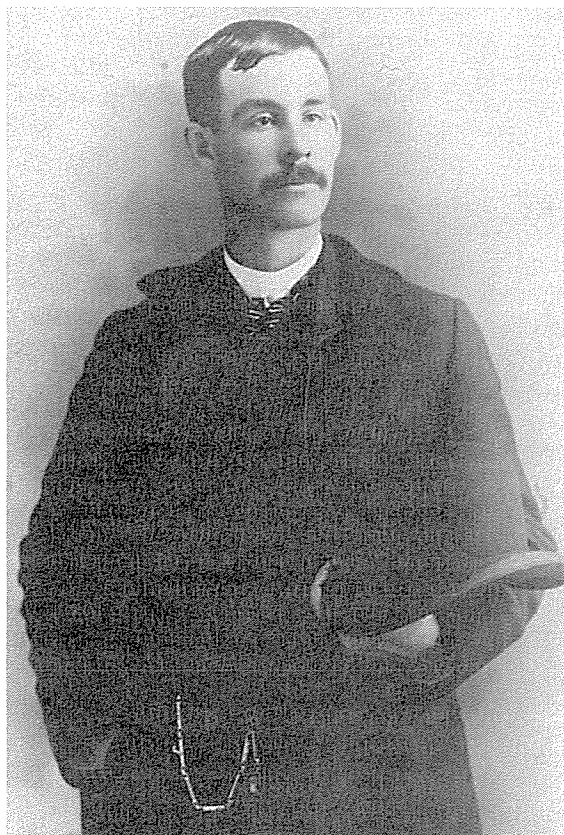
At the close of the war, after William had been mustered out and was waiting at the train station in Tennessee, a group of newly freed blacks came up to him as he stood on the platform, resplendent in his fancy gold-trimmed bugler's uniform. They asked him to perform a group marriage ceremony for them. He later said, "I thought about it, hemmed and hawed, then decided -- why not? I had each couple join hands, and I pronounced them man and wife. I did it as good as any Judge or Preacher could'a done it. If I go to hell, that'll be the reason."

Nimrod, the oldest son, had earlier left Indiana and traveled to the west where he stayed with his uncle (Andrmeda's brother) at his ranch on Antelope Creek near Eagle Point. (Nimrod first married Mary Frances Hurst of Sterlingville, and they had three children: Walter, Floyd and Andromeda. He later married, for a second time, Mary Houk. Their children were Milroy, Meniffee and Evaline.)

William, Andrmeda and daughter Minnie left Red Oak, Iowa, taking a train to Redding, California. They then proceeded by stagecoach over the Dollarhide Toll Road to Jacksonville. In the last part of the year the other three boys came west from Iowa by the same route. They had stayed to harvest the

corn crop.

In southern Oregon Cassius "Clay" worked for William Bybee on the Bybee bridge crew. Merritt and Lem moved in with William and Andrmeda on their homestead at Climax, on the headwaters of Antelope Creek. They raised cattle and produced beef as well as milk, cheese and butter. William hand cut and baled 60 tons of hay one summer.



Cassius Clay Charley

At the age of 18 Clay was lured to Montana by "silver fever." He was not heard from for years. It was rumored that he had been killed by Indians, but he was busy prospecting around Montana. For a year or more he night-herded horses for people who used their horses during the day. In Anaconda he built a large roller-skating rink which he could convert to a dance hall on festive occasions or to a theater when a traveling company passed through.

After his long absence, he eventually decided he missed his family, southern Oregon, and, particularly, a young lady, Emogene Brown, whose parents were the founders of Brownsboro, Oregon. Clay's brother Lem had married her sister, Jennie.

He and Emogene were married in Eagle Point in 1889. Clay soon took his bride back to Anaconda where he contracted to build a dam across the Big Hold River. (It is now used to supply water to the city of Butte.) When it was completed he mined for silver.

In the late eighties, when the country was in a depression, Merritt Charley, who had earlier worked with Clay on the Rim Road around Crater Lake, left his wife Ada and his children with relatives on Antelope Creek and went to Anaconda to join Clay in his entertainment center. After Merritt began working at the Anaconda Copper Mining Company at a substantial wage, he brought his family to Montana. They later moved to Nevada where Merritt went into the business of raising Houdan chickens. In 1917 they moved to Medford and lived on Hamilton Street. (Their four children were Eva, Ida, Maple and Hurst.)

After two years in Montana, Clay and Emogene returned to southern Oregon. Clay built a cabin and a sawmill on his father's land in 1891. He hired his brother Nimrod to help him in the sawmill for \$1 a day; Nimrod had land across the mountain near the head of Lost Creek, but he built another house on his father's place and moved his family to Climax while he worked for Clay.

In 1898 Clay sold his sawmill to Nimrod who dismantled it and moved it across the mountains to his own ranch. Clay and his family moved to a home he had built near Little Butte Creek on land Emogene had inherited from her father. There he constructed another saw mill.

Clay died in 1910, at the age of 50 of lead poisoning contracted while mining in Montana. He died in Portland and his body was shipped to Medford where he lay in state in the parlor of Waverly Cottage. He was survived by Emogene and three sons, Claus, Leland and Floyd.

In 1901 William and Andrumeda decided to retire and move to town. At that time the Waverly Cottage had just been put on the market, and Minnie, William's daughter, was very impressed with it. She persuaded him to buy it. The cottage was in keeping with her love of fancy and ornate things. Her daughter

Karna Stapleton (Frazee), said there were times in her life when she and her mother scarcely had enough to eat, but they were always dressed in expensive, fashionable clothes. Minnie was married and divorced three times and between marriages she lived with her parents at Waverly.



Minnie

When they moved into the cottage, William sold two of his horses, "Gold Bug" and "Dan," to the Medford Fire Department to pull the pump wagon. When the two horses grew older, they were transferred to the Water Department to pull the street sprinkler wagon which was easier work for them. When the fire whistle blew, Gold Bug and Dan would take off for the fire as fast as they could tear, with the water wagon bouncing behind them and the driver running after them to catch up.

William and Andrumeda lived in Waverly Cottage for almost twenty years. They were a familiar part

of the neighborhood and William enjoyed sitting on the front porch with his friends, spinning yarns of his Civil War experiences. He was known to share a generous drop or two from the bottle with his cronies. When Andrumeda decided he had talked too much -- or imbibed too much -- she would shoo away the visitors. By 1920 William was 88. He sold Waverly Cottage to his son Lemon, who, with his wife Jenny, had managed a successful dairy and livestock ranch of 300 acres near Eagle Point on the Lake of the Woods Highway. According to tax records Lem paid \$17.46 for the house. Lem and Jenny had seven children: Nora (Bradshaw), Edna (died at 7), William (died at 2), Hazel (Nichols, Ulrich), Reed, Lemon (died as an infant) and Verna (Brophy).

Lem and Jenny didn't move directly into the cottage but rented it for approximately a year and a half to a minister and his family.

Before they moved into the house, Lem decided to refurbish it. He had the cup dome front porch pulled down, and much of the Victorian gingerbread removed. A new shingle roof was put on and one of the two chimneys was removed as was the "eyebrow" on the front gable. The cottage was painted white, and the name Waverly Cottage was removed.

After selling the house, William and Andrumeda moved to a smaller place on Riverside Avenue. William had suffered all his life from his war injuries, and shortly after the move, in November, 1920, he died.

Andrumeda went to live in Ashland with her daughter, Minnie. In January,

1924, she too died at the age of 88. William and Andrumeda are both buried in the Odd Fellows' Cemetery.

In 1933, after attending the funeral at the Armory of Police Officer George Prescott (who was shot and killed by Llewellyn Banks), Lem and Jenny walked home. Lem complained of feeling ill and lay down on the sofa in the parlor. He fell asleep, suffered a heart attack and died. Jenny Brown Charley lived on in Waverly Cottage by herself. She was known for her beautiful gardens and some of her roses are still blooming.

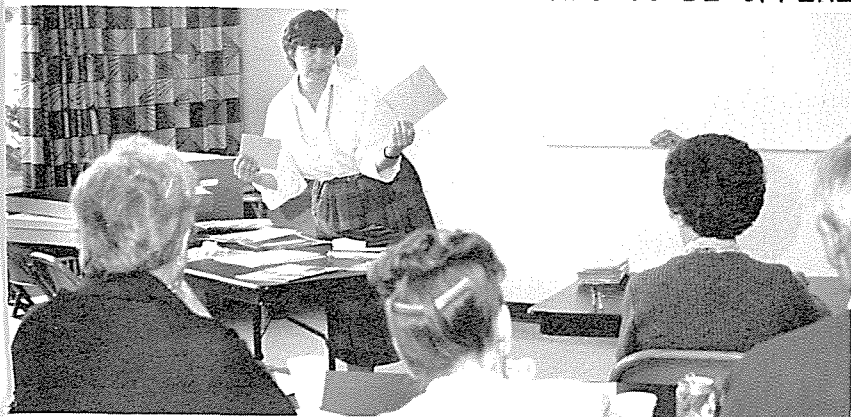
Jenny and Lem's daughter, Verna, and her husband, Leland Brophy (founder of Brophy's Jewelers and the Brophy building on Main and Central) bought the cottage in 1948 when Jenny died. Though they never lived there, they hired a caretaker and gardner to maintain it. In 1978, after the death of Leland Brophy, Verna sold it to Martin Burke of Jacksonville. The cottage had been owned by the Charley family for 78 years.

Burke and his late wife Leona began renovation and modernization of the cottage, but before they had completed the project, they sold it to Lawrence Humphrey, who in turn sold it to David Fisse.

Today Waverly Cottage looks much as it did in its palmiest days. Dee Ann and David Fisse can be proud of their undertaking and Medford can take satisfaction that a precious artifact has been re-discovered.

Raymond Lewis

"BROWN BAG LUNCH" LECTURES TO BE OFFERED AT MARY PHIPPS CENTER IN MEDFORD



Photograph by Natalie Brown

Curator of Interpretation, Dawna Curler, explained how to take care of family photos and mementos during a "Brown Bag Lecture" at the Mary Phipps Center in Medford. The following week Coordinator of Chappell-Swedenburg House, Leslie Gould, spoke on preserving family histories.

The two November lunch-time lectures were the first of a series being co-sponsored by the Southern Oregon Historical Society and the Mary Phipps Center. In February talks on local history, including the Takelma Indians, Jacksonville, Peter Britt, and early film clips of Medford will be offered on Wednesdays at noon.

Watch *The Table Rock Sentinel* for details.

CHAPPELL-SWEDENBURG HOUSE HAS SUCCESSFUL EXHIBIT

From November 1 to November 13 The Chappell-Swedenburg House presented an exhibit called: "Growing up with the Country: The Applegates of Oregon." The exhibit featured paintings by Susan Applegate and sketches by other members of the family. The people in the picture at the right are enjoying original paintings and family photographs. Susan Applegate (below) points out symbolism in a couple of paintings.



Photographs by Natalie Brown

CHAPPELL-SWEDENBURG PREPARES FOR RAILROAD CENTENNIAL

On December 17, 1887, the southern route of the Southern Pacific reached Ashland. It linked the entire nation by railroad. Ashlanders are now awaiting the 100 year anniversary of that special day. As an introduction, the Hands-All-Around-Quilters of Ashland are presenting CELEBRATING ASHLAND'S RAILROAD CENTENNIAL: A PRELUDE at the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum. The show includes contemporary quilts and wall hangings with railroad themes. It opened on November 19 and will be extended through January 30, 1987.

The museum is located on the corner of Siskiyou Boulevard and Mountain Avenue. For more information call 488-1341.

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