SOUTHERN OREGON HERRITAGEN Autumn 2004 Vol. 6, No. 4

HISTORIC HANLEY FARM A Family's Heritage



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DEAR SOHS MEMBER:

Welcome to the fall issue of Southern Oregon Heritage Today. This issue is dedicated to historic Hanley Farm, the largest artifact in the SOHS collections, and the heart of much of our programming. For those of you who missed our four weekends at Hanley Farm this summer, we invite you to come to our "Holidays at Hanley" celebration on December 18th, or to return next summer. Hanley Farm is a very special place, and one of the few venues in the region where multiple generations can have fun and learn side by side.

We also invite you to join us in January when our new exhibit, "Peter Britt: The Man Beyond the Camera," opens at the Jacksonville Museum. It's been several years since Peter Britt has been in Jacksonville, and we expect the exhibit will be one of our finest ever. The opening is scheduled for the last weekend in January 2005.

One other change members of SOHS will notice is the new large-format postcard that is now arriving in your mailboxes each month. Replacing the "History Matters" monthly newsletter, the new postcard will feature a collectable, suitable-forframing historic photograph from the SOHS collection on one side, with a calendar of events and exhibits on the other. We hope members will enjoy this new benefit of membership.

Regarding our headquarters building, SOHS continues in discussions with the city of Medford over the future of the downtown Carnegie Building. We also are looking at other options as we make plans to relocate our administrative offices and our Research Library when our History Center building sells.

Meanwhile, I invite you to delve into the history of Hanley Farm, one family's heritage and gift to the people of southern Oregon through the Southern Oregon Historical Society. We hope you enjoy this issue.

FMI En

John Enders Executive Director



ON THE COVER Oat crops at Hanley Farm in July 2004. Right: Hanley Farm grapes, September 2004. PHOTOS BY TRACY MURPHY



Southern Oregon HERITAGE



The elegant staircase just inside the front entrance of the Hanley

SOHS #1969

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Dawn RedWood: A Gift from the Past By Marjorie and Alan Neal

MANY TREES AT HANLEY FARM have stories to tell, but one unique tale has its roots in the dawn of time.

The year was 1948 and John Gribble, 76, U.S. Forest Service retiree, knew he was about to do a remarkable thing – plant seeds in his Medford backyard that would become the first trees of their kind to grow in Oregon in 10 million years.¹ If he were successful, his efforts would write a new chapter in the history of the "Dawn Redwood."

The story actually began seven years earlier when a deciduous conifer previously known only through fossils was found alive in a remote Chinese village. But in war-torn China, communication was difficult, travel dangerous. Four years passed before Beijing botanist Dr. H.H. Hu published the news that this tree, known as a Chinese water fir, was identical to the fossil known as Metasequoia.² The next year, University of California at Berkeley paleontologist Ralph Chaney declared that Metasequoia had been the dominant conifer in North America 35 million years ago. The tree was soon nicknamed "Dawn Redwood."

In 1947, Dr. E.R. Merrill of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum sent Dr. Hu \$250 to fund a seed-collecting mission. He wound up with 2 pounds of seed.⁴ Merrill sent seed to institutions and individuals throughout the Northern Hemisphere – any place fossils indicated the tree had flourished.

John Gribble wrote Merrill requesting seed and not only received a packet, but became Merrill's friend.⁵ Rogue Valley Manor resident Catherine Gribble Kellogg recalled, "Dad planted a lot of [the dawn redwood seeds] and when they'd get about two and a half feet tall, he'd give them away." The Dawn Redwood in Medford's

Hawthorne Park

was Gribble's gift to the Medford Garden Club, according to Kellogg. "It's a large tree now," she said. Mature trees can reach 150 feet in height with a 6-foot diameter trunk. Gribble gave a tree to Ashland's Lithia Park; others went to the University of Washington, Oregon State University and the University of Oregon, according to Kellogg.⁷

One seedling found its way to Hanley Farm, where Claire Hanley and her sisters had a garden rich in unusual plants and trees. "When Dad raised these trees, he gave one to the youngest of the [Hanley] sisters...they were good friends. He planted it out there for her ...she liked trees too," Kellogg said.

Although today Metasequoia is endangered in China, where it is logged for flooring material, John Gribble's trees stand tall, testimony to his skill in propagating this true gift from the past.

Marjorie Neal volunteers as a Jackson County Master Gardener and Lithia Park Guide, and enjoys speaking and writing about gardening.

Alan Neal is a docent at Hanley Farm and Lithia Park Guide. He, too, likes trees, and enjoys wildflower photography.



Detail of the Dawn Redwood near the water tower at Hanley Farm.



John Gribble, 1964 SOHS#18633



Foliage, immature cones, and "ripe" cones that have shed their seeds.



The Dawn Redwood in Medford's Hawthorne Park, grown from one of Gribble's seedlings. Photo by Alan Neal

ENDNOTES

- 1. Ellen Bishop, In Search of Ancient Oregon (Timber Press, 2003), p.162.
- Donald Hendricks, "Metasequoia Depression...", Landscape Plant News, Vol.6, #2. Summer, 1995. University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.
- 3. Ibid.
- E.D. Merrill, "Metasequoia, Another 'Living Fossil' ", Arnoldia, Vol.51, #4, Winter, 1991.
- Upon Dr. Merrillís death, the correspondence between the two men was sent to Gribble, who in turn donated the letters to the University of Oregon library.
- 6. Catherine Gribble Kellogg, Oral History, Southern Oregon Historical Society, June 22, 2004.
- Catherine Kellogg, conversation with Marjorie Neal, May 10, 2004.
- Catherine Kellogg, Oral History, SOHS, June 22, 2004.

Harvesting at Hanley Farm

By Jennifer Buckner



Ron Martinson and his horses plowing alfalfa at Hanley Farm in July 2004.

PHOTOS BY TRACY MURPHY

t's harvest time, and for several days each summer historic Hanley Farm looks like a scene from

Amish country. Two pairs of dark horses bob their heads as they strain under

the weight of two men and their mowing machines. From a distance, the clanks and rustling of machinery making contact with the ground blend together to make a sound similar to that of a rushing river.

These farmers and their organization, the Southern Oregon Draft and Harness Association, have not only fallen in love with Hanley, as many do, but they have made the farm a long-term commitment. They donate hundreds of hours of their labor in order to keep Hanley a working farm.

Loved by all and worked by many, crops have been raised and harvested every year since Michael and Martha Hanley purchased their land in 1857. Upon this land three generations of farmers have encouraged into life crops of wheat, oats, barley, and alfalfa.

"(Michael) Hanley was instrumental in bringing alfalfa to the valley,"says SODHA member Ron Martinson, taking a break in the shade of a tree. Sweat pours off the horses' necks, rolling down their chests and shoulders. "They are working hard. Look at 'em sweating," says Martinson. Due to the noisy machinery and the precision necessary to plow, the choice of which horses to use is particularly important. Any horse owner will tell you that a relationship of trust between horse and farmer is essential for plowing the oldfashioned way.

"These guys hardly miss a stalk. That says something about the teacher, doesn't it?" Martinsen says with a wink.

Depending on the weather, the crop takes 3-5 days to hay. The finished product: clean, organic Hanley alfalfa hay grown without fertilizer or irrigation.

"Maybe thirty years ago there were a lot of people farming this way. And then there are the Amish and that, but there are maybe less than 10 people that I know of doing it this way in the Rogue Valley," says John Casad, another SODHA member.

"We do this for the same reason people have a boat or something," says Martinson. "This is what we do. We just like it."

The short break is over and Martinsen and Casad quietly urge the horses back to work. All four animals immediately jerk into motion and the men are carried back to the work they love. Across the field, the clanks and rustle of the plow and sickle

bar blend together into a soothing natural sound.

Jennifer Buckner is the Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

New Exhibit

PETER BRITT: The Paintings

When you think of Peter Britt's images you most likely think of black-and-white photographs. They convey a still and serene feeling. But Peter Britt also was a prolific painter. Britt trained as a landscape and portrait painter in his native Switzerland, where he made his living as an itinerant artist. After becoming a photographer in the United States, he continued to paint as a hobby. His artist colleagues included James Everett Stuart, Ann Benner, and Dorland Robinson. This collection of Britt's work in oil will impress you with the myriad of color, subject matter and imaginative themes. "The Paintings" is the first phase of the permanent new exhibit by SOHS on the life and work of Peter Britt, *Peter Britt: The Man Beyond the Camera*. The complete exhibit will be open January 29, 2005.

PETER BRITT SELF PORTRAIT CIRCA 1858

Jacksonville Museum • 5th and C Streets • Wednesday through Sunday 10am to 5pm





SOHS Acc #B22

Exhibits

History Center 106 N. Central Ave., Medford

CELEBRATING FLIGHT: A HISTORY OF AVIATION IN SOUTHERN OREGON

The Society's major exhibit, "Celebrating Flight" opened in December to coincide with nationwide centennial celebrations of the Wright Brothers' first powered flight at Kitty Hawk. Come see airplanes and models, historic photographs and vintage film clips, a real flight-simulation trainer, oral histories of local aviation pioneers, and much more. Admission by donation; free to members.



LASTING IMPRESSIONS: THE ART AND LIFE OF DORLAND ROBINSON

Artist Dorland Robinson (1891-1917), a Jacksonville prodigy, produced an exceptional body of work in her short life. The diversity of media she worked in, from charcoal and pastel to oil and watercolor, is presented in this largest-ever exhibit of her work, which continues in the History Center mezzanine.





Jacksonville Museum 5TH & C STREETS, JACKSONVILLE

NEW EXPANDED HOURS

As of September 18, the Jacksonville and Children's Museums have expanded their hours of operation to Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm.

The museums will be closed at 2 pm on December 31 for exhibit installation and will reopen January 29 at 10am.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING: **JACKSON COUNTY MILESTONES**

An abundance of artifacts and photographs, from Chinese archaeological material to an early cellular telephone, tell the county's story. Not everything is behind glass - a working 1940s jukebox plays vintage automobile songs; a DVD player shows historic film clips.

MINER, BAKER, FURNITURE MAKER

Explore the development of the Rogue Valley and the impact of the industrial revolution on the settlement of Oregon.

Children's Museum

5TH AND C STREETS, JACKSONVILLE

Everyone enjoys exploring home and work settings from the 1850s to the 1930s through "hands-on-history."

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The Making of a Museum: By Margaret Watson The Hanley Sisters' Contribution

IN NOVEMBER 1982 Miss Mary Hanley, pen poised

while the camera flashed, made arrangements to donate the Hanley Farm to the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Continuing her lifelong tradition of commitment and devotion to history and the Society, Mary gave the breadth and depth of her pioneer family's hard work to the Society for "establishing and maintaining a continuing historical farm."¹ It was one of the many lasting gifts Mary and her family made to the Historical Society and the people of Southern Oregon.

The Hanley farm was one of the early Donation Land Claims situated just north of the town of Jacksonville. Two related families, the Clintons and Weltons, first homesteaded 640 acres and developed the property in the early 1850s. Michael and Martha Hanley, Mary's grandparents, purchased the farm in 1857 and continue to construct barns, gardens, and a large distinctive house. The couple began a legacy of independent, pioneering and historically-minded living out in the Southern Oregon landscape.

Michael and Martha had nine children, six of whom survived to adulthood. Alice Hanley (1859-1940), Michael and Martha's eldest surviving daughter (Mary's aunt), was conscious that she witnessed an incredible and historic era. Born shortly after the Gold Rush first brought settlers and miners to Jacksonville, Alice lived to see airplanes fly overhead and automobiles cruise the road in front of the circa 1875 farmhouse she inherited from her parents. Alice was an early member and served as an officer of the Society of Southern Oregon Pioneers. The Pioneers met annually in Jacksonville or Ashland, and had held the hope since the group's inception in 1877, that their history would be preserved. An expert in local history, Alice helped document pioneer families through reciting the stories she had heard and events she had seen as a child. She helped plant a "museum seed" by personally preserving possessions associated with pioneer families. Alice filled her house with them. Mary Hanley remembered her sister Florence Claire, and "Aunt Allie" stopping at an old log cabin they came upon while driving the hills above the Applegate River.

They found two men sawing deer bones on an old melodeon. Alice quickly purchased the melodeon from the men and took it home. Despite offers from others, she refused to sell it. She was confident that at some point in the future there would be a museum in Southern Oregon. Alice wanted the melodeon to be one of the first things to be displayed.² Her older brother John Hanley died in 1901, followed in death by his wife Mary Love Hanley in 1904. They left three minor girls orphaned. Alice and her brothers and sisters shared the responsibility of raising Florence Claire, Martha and Mary. Claire (preferring to be called by her middle name) made a home with Alice.

Alice independently managed Hanley Farm until her death in 1940. She left the farm to her three nieces. As single women, Claire, Martha and Mary followed in Alice's footsteps and assumed management of the farm, living together in the old farmhouse. Literally surrounded by their aunt Alice's passion for the past, the women continued to spearhead preservation of the belongings and history of local pioneer Claire and Mary attended the meeting in 1946 to formally organize the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Prominent in the nearby Jacksonville landscape was the abandoned old Jackson County Courthouse. Efforts had been made to find funding to restore the building. The Society was particularly interested in using the building to house a museum. A brief column appeared in the Medford Mail Tribune on March 7,

1948. Elizabeth Edmonson wrote, "Why can't we organize and get a museum and art gallery in honor of the builders of this part of Oregon? Why should children not be able to see good pictures, antiques, etc. without traveling to Portland, San Francisco, New York or Europe...we sleep on in the peace of oblivion to everything interesting and let our children grow up thinking that there is no scenery, art or personality in this section worth knowing."³

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A successful campaign to provide funds for restoration was carried through in the 1948 general election. On Tuesday evening, May 10, 1949, at the home of Walter H. Leverette, President, members of the fledgling Southern Oregon Historical Society met to discuss the legal aspects of their institution and hear comments on the value of history as an asset to the community. President Leverette suggested that new officers should be elected for the now permanent organization that would be in charge of the Courthouse museum project. Miss Claire Hanley addressed the group, telling them of the "materials, and sources of materials present within the membership of the Society of Southern Oregon Pioneers." She was elected that evening as the new president of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Mary Hanley supported her sister's nomination, and sister Martha soon followed suit and joined the Society in 1950. Mary became quite active in the internal affairs of the Society. She served as curator of the Jacksonville Museum from 1955 to 1967. Through many devoted hours, Mary documented objects and books donated to the museum, compiling and organizing information from the donors. Administrative responsibilities, as well as parties and receptions, were organized and hosted by the three sisters, many at the farm. The spirit and continuity of the Southern Oregon Historical Society were literally held in the hands of the Hanley sisters.

Claire continued to serve as Society president until her death in 1963. Martha passed away in 1975. Mary survived both of her sisters. Claire and Martha left their inherited portions of the farm to Mary, with implied instructions to make sure that their estates would support, preserve, protect and present history.⁴ True to the end, Mary made the single largest donation in the history of the Southern Oregon Historical Society – the Hanley Farm. The legacies of Alice, Claire, Martha and Mary live on through their enduring foundation of time, commitment and personal devotion. And if one ever feels the need to be reassured of their presence, peek in the windows of the Catholic Rectory in Jacksonville. You will see the old melodeon.

Margaret Watson is the former Curator of Hanley Farm

ENDNOTES

- 1. Last Will and Testament of Mary Hanley.
- 2. OH 195, p. 204. See also p. 265.
- 3. Medford Mail Tribune, 7 March 1948.
- 4. Jackson County Probate Records.



Mary signing the deed of gift to Hanley Farm in 1982. SOHS #10054 Upper right: Mary and her "collection." Circa 1964 SOHS #13013 Lower right: The Jacksonville Museum today. Photo By Dana Jackson.





FEATURE



Ann Bannon's nicely composed oil of a Chrysanthemum plant is nearly 53 inches tall. It can be seen in the green parlor at the Hanley House. SOHS #1982.107.291

Hanley House: Treasure Trove of History By Steve Wyatt

ten buildings, and over 2000 items were added to the collections of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

The Society's goals for the farmhouse include interpreting the house to the public and preserving it for future generations.

To allow safe passage of tours through the once-crammed house, some of the household items were moved to the Society's storage facility. For improved access for researchers and preservation, sixty boxes of archival material were removed from the house, cataloged, and housed in the SOHS Research Library.

The Society has been researching and documenting the Hanley collection since 1981 and continues to do so. This process began with a series of recorded interviews with Mary Hanley. The 300-plus page transcription is accessible in the Research Library. In recounting the history of her family's farm she shared a great deal of information regarding family and household history that would have otherwise been lost with her passing in 1986.

She recalled the dining room table and a second small table in that room were purchased by Alice Hanley ("Aunt Allie") from a Jacksonville furniture maker. She was certain it was not well-known furniture man David Linn, but she could not recall the maker's name. "Aunt Allie" ordered the dining chairs from a catalog. Her sister Claire ordered the dining room carpet from Meier & Frank of Portland. When it arrived it was too big; she shipped it back to exchange for a smaller one.¹

One of the more interesting rooms in the house is what is called the sitting room or the green parlor. It is one of the most original rooms in the house. Hanley recalled the carpet "had been on the floor forever." The paint on the walls was "the same as grandfather put there." A small table in the room was inherited from a niece, Agnes Love. This was also probably the case with the large Chrysanthemum oil painting that hangs directly above it. Hanley identified the painting's artist as Ann Bannon, daughter of prominent Jacksonville attorney B.F. Dowell. She shared no other details. Guests touring the house are often curious about that painting and a second oil painting by Bannon that hangs in the formal parlor. The information shared by Mary Hanley, photos in the Hanley archives collection and information from SOHS's Research Library has since brought the history of these paintings to light.

Anna Bannon and Mary Hanley were cousins. Anna's sister "Fannie" married George Love in 1885. George Love was Mary Hanley's mother's brother. Anna's father Benjamin Franklin Dowell (1826-1897) practiced law in Jacksonville. He also owned the Jacksonville newspaper, Oregon Sentinel, for 14 years. Dowell was a frequent visitor to Washington D.C., as his bread and butter was winning settlers' and veterans' claims against the government for losses incurred during the "Rogue Indian Wars."

Built in 1859, Dowell's Jacksonville landmark brick home stands at 470 North Fifth Street. In 1862 he married Anna Campbell (c.1844-1931). They had three children Fanchion "Fannie," (1863-1913), Benjamin F. Jr. (1870-1911), and Anna (1865-1934).²

How much artistic training Anna had and how prolific she was is unknown. At present there are few known details of her life. She married Portland attorney Patrick J. Bannon (d.1953). Anna became an attorney and practiced with her father at their firm, "B.F. Dowell and Daughter," with offices in Portland and Washington D.C.³ Anna owned the family home in Jacksonville from 1885 to 1905.

After Anna's passing on March 20, 1934 in Portland her brief death notice listed no survivors other than her niece Agnes Love.⁴ No mention was made of her art or her law practice. She was buried in Portland next to her father.

The story of Anna Bannon brings to light the history of two lesserknown artifacts in the Hanley Farmhouse. Hundreds of additional stories await research in this treasure trove of history.



This photo from the Hanley collection shows Anna Bannon and her mother at a painting party. Anna, seated, is second from the far right. SOHS #1738

ENDNOTES

1. OH195, SOHS library 2. "Dowell"vertical file, SOHS library 3. MS 391, scrapbook, SOHS library 4. Oregonian, 21 March 1934

Steve Wyatt is the Curator of Collections of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.



This signed 1893 painting, believed by many to be Mt. McLaughlin, hangs above the fireplace in the formal parlor of the Hanley farmhouse. SOHS #1982.107.355

The Hanley-Love Connection Two Families Intertwined by Sharstin Brannock

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HANLEY FAMILY TO THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY is largely known and documented. They gave the Society the largest gift in its history, and the largest artifact in our collection--Hanley Farm. Less well-known is the interrelated, closely-tied Love family. The Love-Hanley connection goes back several generations.

Hanley Farm -- an original Donation Land Claim farmstead -- was purchased by Michael Hanley (1824-1889) in 1857, and the farm remained in the family for three generations, passing from his daughter Alice Hanley to his three granddaughters Mary, Florence (who preferred to be called Claire) and Martha, who were also the granddaughters of John Swan Love, another early Jacksonville area pioneer. The three Hanley sisters took after their independent-minded Aunt Alice. Eventually, all three resided at Hanley Farm together, and none of them married. This influential and independent streak was a continuation of their pioneer ancestors' way of life. Claire and Martha, and Aunt Alice, preceded Mary in death.

With no direct heirs, Mary Love Hanley (1893-1986) bequeathed Hanley Farm to SOHS at her passing. Today, Hanley Farm is operated as a museum and a historic farmstead where visitors may tour the house, barns, outbuildings and grounds, and view and participate in history-based programs and events.

The Hanley and Love families were connected in many ways. Both were prominent and influential forces in early Jacksonville history, with involvement in business, politics and the Fraternal Order of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. (see accompanying article).

In 1853, John Swan Love's family came to Oregon from Pennsylvania. His parents and other family members stayed in the Willamette Valley while John continued on to Jacksonville, where he set up a business as a tinsmith. He eventually went into partnership with Johannes (John) Bilger (1831-1877). In 1856, they purchased a storefront at 150 West California Street and ran Love and Bilger Tin Shop, where they also sold hardware.¹ The property is still in use today.

In 1857, Michael Hanley moved to Jacksonville from Douglas County, Oregon with his wife Martha Burnett Hanley. They purchased The Willows, now known as Hanley Farm, and had nine children, of whom six survived. Michael Hanley farmed and raised cattle and mules with his family, and he was well respected for his farming and ranching knowledge. In Jacksonville, he served on various committees2, was a delegate3 and elected director of the Jacksonville School District for a three-year term.⁴ He was encouraged to run for various public offices in his lifetime, but declined and concentrated on his business life.

John S. Love was remembered as generous and kind. Flora Watt, a neighbor, was interviewed in the 1920s and recalled a visit to the tin shop when she was about 4 years old. Love asked her what she would like and she pointed at a tin biscuit cutter. He found this amusing, laughed and brought her a small tin bucket he



Agnes Love at the Hanley residence. SOHS #16748

had made. She loved it and used it when she went to school the next year. She still had it at the time of the interview.⁵

John S. Love met his future wife Sophia Harris when he hired her widowed mother to care for his own mother, who was sickly and had moved to Jacksonville. As a child, Sophia had been shot during the Rogue Indian Wars. She survived the wound but her father was not as fortunate and died during the same confrontation. Love and Harris were married in 1860 and had 4 children. Five years later, John had a new home built for the family at Third and C streets in Jacksonville. The Love House was touted in the press as "an ornament to the town and a great improvement to that portion."6 The residence, located at 175 Third Street, is still occupied today.

John S. Love was very active in the community and participated on many committees. He held the office of County Commissioner⁷ and was installed as a Mason in Warren Lodge No. 10 where he served in various capacities.⁸ When he died in 1867, he was so well regarded that he was mourned by many -- businesses in Jacksonville closed for the afternoon in honor of his passing. Also, as a show of great honor, the Masons of Warren Lodge No. 10 wore pieces of crape on their clothing and draped their meeting hall for one month.

Sophia Harris Love and the couple's daughter Maggie died when smallpox swept through Jacksonville in 1869. The other children, George, Mary Harris Love and John moved in with their maternal grandmother, Mary Harris Chambers, at her farm in Central Point. Upon her death in 1882, the Chambers farm passed to Mary Harris Love. John, the youngest of the Love children, died of an unknown cause at twenty-two, in June of 1890.

The Love House in Jacksonville, August 2004.

John A. Hanley, the oldest son of Michael Hanley, and George Love became brothersin-law when John married Mary Harris Love on December 20, 1882. Their marriage was believed by the families to be a good match.¹⁰ John A. and Mary Harris Love Hanley lived at the Chambers farm located about a mile from Hanley Farm, which John helped manage. Within two years, the brothers-in-law were in the livestock business together shipping hogs and eventually cattle to such destinations as Portland and Montana.¹¹ Love and Hanley were linked through business for many years until George Love and his wife Fanny Dowell Love moved to Alaska in 1900.

When Michael Hanley passed away in 1889, his properties were divided among his surviving children. His caretaker and oldest daughter Alice Hanley inherited Hanley Farm. She became the guardian of her niece Florence Claire Hanley when Claire's mother Mary Harris Love Hanley died in 1904. The remaining Hanley sisters Martha and Mary eventually moved to Hanley Farm after Alice died in 1940, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Aunt Alice Hanley was an avid collector of local history, both through artifacts and lore, and she instilled this love of history in her nieces.

After the Love House had gone through more than a dozen owners, Mary Love Hanley purchased the home in 1963 with the intent of restoring it and making it a rental property.12 She also wanted to safeguard her family history since her grandparents had built and lived in the house. Her grandparents' bedroom furniture, which had been at Hanley Farm for many years, was already preserved in one of the upstairs bedrooms on the farm. Although the Love House was sold to a long-time tenant, the Love family link is still attached to the house in the shape of a historic plaque bearing their name. These physical reminders along with Mary Love Hanley's family history will forever preserve the Hanley-Love connection.

ENDNOTES

- Jacksonville Herald, October 1857.

- ¹Jacksonville Herala, October 1857. ²Democratic Times, 15 July 1871, p. 3:2. ³Oregon Sentinel, 26 April 1876, p. 3:3. ⁴Oregon Sentinel, 10 April 1875 ⁵Written by Kate F. Parker Watt Clipping by Fred Lackburg and the sentence of the sente Writen by Kate F. Farket Watt - Chipping by Fred Lockley, no date.
 Oregon Sentinel, 17 June 1865, p. 3:4.
 ⁷Oregon Sentinel, 18 June 1864, p. 3:3.
 ⁸Henry H. Halvorsen, Masonry Comes to Southern Oregon (Grande Printing Center, Inc. 1978).
 ⁹Oregon Sentinel, 21 September 1867, p. 3:5.
 ¹⁹Elercher Linn, Benerghersnegon of Elether Linn.

- ¹⁰Fletcher Linn, Remembrances of Fletcher Linn, unpublished manuscript, Southern Oregon
- Historical Society
- ¹¹Oregon Sentinel articles, 4 October 1884 p. 3:2, 7 February 1885 p. 3:2, 22 May 1886 p. 3:2
- ¹²Medford Mail Tribune, 27 January 1963, p.2, sec. B



The Masonic **Building** in Jacksonville at 3rd and California streets, circa 1947. SOHS #15619

Freemasonry in Jacksonvil The history of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

of Jacksonville begins in late 1854 or early 1855 on an unknown date on a "saddle-shaped hill on the Mike Hanley Ranch, a few miles northeast of Jacksonville." The meeting was to organize a new Masonic Lodge. On March 18, 1855 the initial petition to organize was signed by fourteen applicants. Dr. Belt, deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, granted dispensation and Warren Lodge No. 10 was formed.¹

Two years after the establishment of Warren Lodge No. 10, John S. Love and Michael Hanley petitioned for membership and were admitted. Within a few years, such notable Jacksonville citizens as J.W. McCully and Cornelius C. Beekman also joined. George Love and John A. Hanley, the sons of John S. Love and Michael Hanley, respectively, also were Masons. George Love held the office of Worshipful Master from 1898 through 1900.2

The first Masonic Lodge was located on the site of the current Jacksonville Children's Museum, operated by the Southern Oregon Historical Society. It also occupied the second floor of the original Jackson County Courthouse, which burned down. Originally, the courthouse had been a single-story building. The Masons petitioned to build a second story and retain ownership of the upper floor. The petition was granted with the proviso that either party could buy out the other.

from 1858 to 1868, finally selling their interest in the second floor to Jackson County. A monument erected by the Masons marks the site.³

The current Masonic Lodge is located at the corner of South Oregon and West California streets. This structure also had separate first- and second-floor ownership, with the Peter Britt family owning the first floor and the Masons the second. In 1946, the Britt estate sold the Masons the first floor for \$1.4

The Masons own portions of the Jacksonville Cemetery, and burial plots are given to members as needed. Many of the Loves and Hanleys are buried in the Masonic sections. Donations for the plots are accepted; if unable to pay, no Mason is turned away. 5 Plots for the Love and Hanley families include the graves of John S. Love and his wife Sophia, Michael Hanley and wife Martha, Alice Hanley and the Hanley sisters, along with others.6

ENDNOTES

- 1. Henry H. Halvorsen, Masonry Comes to Southern Oregon (Grande Printing, Center, Inc., 1978), pp. 11-12 2. Ibid. pp. 67, 76 3. Ibid. pp. 38, 42-43

- Interview with Don Bouchard, Senior Warden - Warren Lodge No. 10, 2 August
- 2004 5. Ibid
- 6. www.jacksonvillecm.org

The Masons remained at that location

Sharstin Brannock is the Editorial Assistant for Southern Oregon Heritage Today.



A Hanley Family Rift is Healed By Michael Hanley IV, as told to Jan Wright

Michael Hanley I SOHS #9737

AMONG FAMILIES OFTEN DATE BACK MANY GENERATIONS. Such is the case with one misunderstanding in the Hanley family. The Hanleys were early Oregon pioneers, and it was the Hanley family that gave Hanley Farm to the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

The following story of the separation of the Hanley brothers became so much a part of the family's legend that Michael Hanley's children and grandchildren repeated the tale long after the principal characters were dead and buried. The greatgrandchildren acted as carriers of the rift between the branches of the Hanley family until one day actual contact between the two sides opened up a new dimension to the tale and undid the spell of anger and estrangement.

If you had been a descendant of Michael Hanley (1824-1889), well-known Southern Oregon pioneer, you would have been told that in the 1840s he and his brother, John, had a flat boat business that shipped goods down the Ohio River from Ohio to New Orleans. It was on one of these trips in 1849 that they heard about the discovery of gold in California. The brothers could not pass up such an opportunity. They hatched a plan to have Michael wait in New Orleans for John, who would return to Ohio, settle up the business, and say goodbye to his wife and family. They would leave together for the gold fields as soon as John came back.

For Michael, who was seven years younger than his brother and single, the waiting was unbearable. He convinced himself that John was never coming back and that his brother had absconded with the proceeds from the business and gone to California without him. Waiting in New Orleans amid the daily talk of gold and instant wealth and the frequent departures of ships full of men seeking their fortunes, Michael decided to pull up anchor and leave for the golden shores, alone. Believing himself the injured party, he disowned his brother. He continued to maintain contact with his mother and sister in Ohio but never again spoke to John.¹ Michael did well in his mining days in California but eventually drifted north to Oregon and married Martha Burnett in Douglas County and moved to the Jacksonville area, where Hanley Farm still stands as a testament to his industry.

John's family had a different view of what happened between the brothers and an actual piece of evidence that documents the moment in time. The story that the John Hanley family repeated for over 100 years goes something like this: After John secured his family in Ohio² and returned to New Orleans he searched for Michael. He waited as long as he could, not knowing that Michael had already left. He wrote a letter dated March 11, 1850, to his wife, Angeline, from the Isthmus of Panama. He said, "I have been looking for brother Mike for a long time. I waited a month at New Orleans for him. I had to go or loose [sic] my tickets."3 Once he arrived in California, he continued to look for his brother but his search for Michael was as unsuccessful as his hunt for gold. He soon returned to Ohio and settled in Mississippi near Vicksburg with his wife and children.

From John's family tradition we learn that at the outbreak of the Civil War he joined the Rebel cause in the 8th Mississippi

Regiment⁴ and watched his beloved Vicksburg fall to the Union forces. At war's end, he was free to go home where he hoped his wife and children waited. When he arrived weary from losing and full of bitterness toward the Yankees, he found his wife and daughters had turned their lovely home into a boarding house for the enemy. Without waiting for an explanation, he stormed away. The family never saw or heard from him again, though later they heard a rumor that he was killed in the woods outside of Vicksburg.5

John's family for several generations blamed Michael for the division. Michael's family blamed John's. In the end, it was a simple misunderstanding based on distance and lack of communication.

If your family has a similar rift it is worth investigating the many sources of information available today to attempt to reunite long-lost cousins or at least find corroborating information for your own story. The Hanley families produced four generations of descendants before they found each other. The face to face and joyful reunion took place in 1979 in Jordan Valley, Oregon, between Michael Hanley IV and John Hanley from Virginia.

ENDNOTES

- Letter dated 4 February 2004 from Michael Hanley IV containing copies of family records. Copy in Hanley family Vertical File at SOHS library
 M432 Roll 738 p. 242 1850 Federal Census Washington County, Ohio for Angeline, Catherine and Mary E. Hanley.
 Vertical File SOHS ñ Hanley family
 Portical File Sold and Armine
- 4. Roster of the Confederate Armies
- 5. Letter dated 4 Feb 2004 from Michael Hanley IV containing Hanley family records.

Jan Wright is the Director of the Talent Historical Society and registrar at SOHS.

John Hanley of Virginia and Michael Hanley IV (in hat) and young Michael (Ike) Hanley V, in 1979. Michael Hanley is a rancher in Jordan Valley, Oregon



See recent photos of Michael Hanley IV and Michael Hanley V (Ike) on pages 22 and 23.



Pinpointing the original placement

of this old wooden roadside sign, twelve miles equidistant from the Southern Oregon towns of Jacksonville and Copper, could be a challenge for anyone not familiar with the history of Copper. It is nowhere to be found on modern maps.

If you had an older map, however, you'd find Copper a mile north of the Oregon-California border, on the Applegate River at the mouth of Carberry Creek. Since 1980, when the Applegate Dam was completed and the Applegate Reservoir filled for regional flood protection, the small community of Copper, which consisted of a gas station and a small store, has been under about one hundred feet of water.

Unlike many small settlements, Copper was not named for an early settler. It was named for the mineral. A relatively small rush of miners into the area began in the 1890s when copper deposits were discovered. Soon, Copper emerged as a modest trade and social center patronized by miners and ranchers living nearby. In its early days, it included a small one-room log schoolhouse.

Copper probably experienced it's greatest level of activity after a 1906 survey discovered the largest copper sulphide ore deposit ever found in the American West. It was just a mile south of the Oregon-California line at the Blue Ledge Mine. For awhile, there was even talk of building a railroad spur to the mine from Medford to transport the 500 tons per day of ore that the land was expected to yield.

Though there was indeed copper, both low and medium grade, it was in scattered deposits - not enough in a single location to make it pay. Luckily, mining was not the only way to make a living in the area; ranching was the other principal use of the land. In the 1910s, noted cattleman William "Bill" Hanley, the son of Martha and Michael Hanley, owned a ranch in the Copper area. The Hanley family also owned and operated a farm between Jacksonville and Central Point, which later was given by the family to the Southern Oregon Historical Society, which continues to own and operate it.

Despite the mining venture going bust, the Copper community center and grocery store continued to fill a need for those living nearby. The area had blossomed into such a hub of activity that a Post Office was established in 1924. It was discontinued in 1932.

About ten years after the Post Office closure, Copper's very existence came into question for the first time. Serious talk of building a dam on the site began in the mid 1940s. Guy Watkins, whose grandparents homesteaded near the Copper Store, recalled that opposition to the dam was strong at that time.1

Discussions turned serious after Congress authorized the three-dam Rogue Basin Flood Control Project in 1962.² Many, but not all, of the locals resigned themselves to the possibility that flood control might be a better use of this marginal farmland.

At that time it was estimated the reservoir would cover five ranches and about twelve homes as well as the Copper Store. At that time, the store and a service station were owned and operated by Gladys Crow, proprietor for 26 years.3

Copper made the newspapers in 1966 for a very different reason. Noted actor, bodybuilder and fitness advisor Steve Reeves



PHOTO BY TRACY MURPHY

(1924-2000) purchased Bill Hanley's old ranch, which by then was known as the Suncrest Ranch. Reeves raised Morgan horses on the 162-acre spread.4 The isolated Suncrest Ranch was on Squaw Lake, about ten miles from the Copper Store.

The Suncrest Ranch was not directly affected by the Rogue Basin dam project, but the old Watkins homestead was destined to become lake bottom property. In 1977, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers purchased the soon-to-be-flooded land from Watkins, who by that time also owned the store. Watkins didn't go far from his family's old homestead. He purchased land in the shadow of the future dam and built a new house. Watkins told a reporter, "I'm too young to retire and too old to change or start over." Asked his age by a reporter, the lifelong bachelor replied: "Too old to chase women, too young to forget them."5 In July 1978, the last vestige of the doomed settlement, the Copper service station, was dismantled.

As site preparation for the dam progressed, it soon became apparent that Copper's name should have been "Gold." The contractor for the project set up a gold-extraction operation, and reportedly \$2.6 million in gold was removed from the 988 acres of land cleared for the reservoir.6

The wooden sign pictured above is one of the few known tangible reminders of Copper. The late Burnell Hatch, a longtime employee of the Jackson County Road Department, removed it in the late 1970's while at work. It was recently donated to the Southern Oregon Historical Society and is now a part of the Society's permanent collection of historic artifacts.

Steve Wyatt is the Curator of Collections of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

EDITER'S NOTE:

The Society has no photos or other memorabilia associated with Copper. Anyone who possesses Copper-related items and is interested in donating or loaning them for duplication should contact Curator of Collections Steve Wyatt at (541) 773-6536, ext. 262.

ENDNOTES

 [&]quot;Copper Store Owner Watkins Building Home Downstream," *The Mail Tribune*, 23 October 1977.
 Robert Sterling, "Copper Lies Deep in History and Water," *The Mail Tribune*, 23 March 1985.
 Maude Ziegler, "Copper Store, Ranches, Homes, May Give Way to Applegate Dam," *Medford Mail Tribune*, 18 February 1962
 Maude Ziegler, "Suncrest Ranch Near Copper Still Raises Prize Winning Cattle," *Medford Mail Tribune*, 26 June 1966.
 "Copper Store Owner Watkins Building Home Downstream," *The Mail Tribune*, 23 October 1977.
 John and Marguerite Black, *Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley*, (Medford, OR: Webb Research Group, 1990), pp. 149-150.

ΡΗΟΤΟ ΕSSAY

"Through the ample open door of the peaceful country barn, A sunlit pasture field with cattle and horses feeding, and haze and vista, and the far horizon fading away."

"A FARM PICTURE" BY WALT WHITMAN



By Dawna Curler Photograpy by Dana L. Jackson

9.

An unknown number of nineteenth and early twentieth century barns still dot the Southern Oregon rural landscape.

MANY, NEGLECTED AND DECAYED, WILL SOON BE GONE. A few show promise for survival through adaptive use, care, and maintenance. These barns stand like rustic architectural sculptures defying modernization and encroaching development. They reflect a past era when the barn was a central aspect of the working family farm.

Two rustic barns grace the historic pioneer farmstead of Michael Hanley located about two miles north of Jacksonville on Hanley Road.

The oldest, *(see photo at right)* was built in the 1850s as a stock and threshing barn, and later modified. Barns of this type, with a low profile and side entry drive-through were common in the 1850s and 1860s. Inside, all the supporting timbers including the braces are hand-hewn. The mortise and tenon joints are fastened together with wooden pegs. This is very likely the oldest standing barn in Jackson County. *(For more information on this barn, see the following article on page 18)*

In contrast to the early pioneer barn, the most visible barn (shown at left) at the Hanley farm rises fifty feet in height. This impressive hay barn is thirty feet wide and a hundred feet long. Loosely spaced boards let in light and provide air-flow. A news item in the Jacksonville Democratic Times indicates that barn builders Jason Hartman and Benton Pool framed this barn in June of 1900.

Across Hanley Road, (not pictured), is another Hanley hay barn still owned by a Hanley family descendent. Built from a combination of hand-hewn and sawed timbers, this barn probably dates to the late 1800s. **⁽¹⁾**

Dawna Curler is a Programs Associate with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.



PRESERVATION

Hanley Barn Restoration Threshing Barn No Longer Thrashed

By Steve Wyatt



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE BUTLER



PHOTO BY DANA JACKSON

S OHS ARTIFACT #1982.107.7 IS EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS rather than stored in a climate-controlled environment or safely on exhibit behind glass. But this is not a case of curator neglect. And though it might be tempting to protect the artifact from the elements with an immense cover, that would greatly detract from its historic context in relation to Hanley Farm.

Built in the 1850s, the 19th Century Barn at Hanley Farm is one of the more challenging artifacts the Southern Oregon Historical Society cares for. It is one of over 2,000 items ranging in size from a button to an even larger barn willed to SOHS by Mary Hanley in 1982.

Considered by many to be the oldest barn in Jackson County, it was designed and used for threshing. Threshing is the process of separating grain seeds from the plant's chaff and stalks. In the 1850s many locals were growing wheat. They threshed in the winter and took their grain to Ashland or elsewhere for milling into flour.

The threshing carried out in this barn was the same laborintensive work little changed for centuries. First the grain was flailed, beaten with a wooden club attached by strap to a handle. Sometimes flailing was done by allowing horses or livestock to walk on the grain. Then it was passed through a filter. During this process the barn doors were thrown open to utilize the breeze to blow away the chaff and dust, leaving the heavier grain on the floor.

By 1871 the threshing barn had become obsolete; the Hanleys had acquired a threshing machine. In the decades that followed the barn was modified various times for different crops and livestock. Its original timber-frame braces were removed to accommodate a hay-pulley system. The threshing area and a hayloft were removed. At some point, the barn was widened and the roofline altered.

After 1910 it was disassembled and rebuilt at its present site on Jackson Creek. Disassembly was practical because the barn was built using mortise and tenon construction. In that ancient building technique, the main hand-hewn posts and beams fit together like a puzzle. Hanley family legend has it the move from its original site near the water tower came with the advent of the automobile. Passing cars on Hanley Road were frightening the animals, so they wanted the barn to be further from the road.

When SOHS took ownership of the barn its future was uncertain; many of structural elements of the barn were missing. In 2002, SOHS was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Jeld-Wen Foundation for the barn's restoration. Pilgrim's Progress, a preservation firm, surveyed the barn and prepared a report outlining the work that would be needed to preserve the barn for future generations. The preservation experts also held a workshop demonstrating how to hew, shape and place the missing beams using traditional tools and techniques.

SOHS and volunteers from the Southern Oregon Draft Horse Association (SODHA) soon had the first beam in place. By spring 2004 SODHA had five main beams in place and a freestanding floor was also added. The barn has been open to the public but finishing touches remain. Once the knee braces and reinforcing cables are in place this project will be considered complete.

This formerly thrashed threshing barn has a new lease on life thanks to the volunteer work of the Southern Oregon Draft Horse Association membership, the generous support of local philanthropists and SOHS members, and the work of the staff and volunteers of SOHS. ≘

> Steve Wyatt is the Curator of Collections of the So Oregon Historical Society

Hanley Water Tower

Circa 1910



SOHS #9477B



July 2004

PHOTO BY TRACY MURPHY

The photos on the left and below were taken about 1910. They show the original windmill, the original water tower and the old barn, which has been moved. In 1933, Alice Hanley purchased a new windmill and a new water tank, and had a new tower built. They still stand today. Along with the farmhouse, the tower was painted this summer.





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Dear Friends of SOHS,

June, July, and August brought a spate of new grants to your historical society, and we are already seeing the positive effects of these new funds. For example, the farmhouse and water tower at Hanley Farm are now newly painted thanks to a \$7500 grant from the Kinsman Foundation. We are sprucing up the Jacksonville Children's Museum with the help of a \$3500 grant from Avista Corporation for the replacement of props and the rejuvenation of some of the museum's well-worn exhibits.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation gave SOHS \$3000 to conduct a structural analysis of part of the Jacksonville Museum. The grant has enabled us to assess the condition of wiring and flooring before we reconfigure the space there. The City of Ashland awarded a \$2134 Cultural and Economic Development Grant to install "History Right Here" interpretive panels on the Ashland Plaza. And US Bank donated \$2000 for general operating support.

While receiving such grants is important and gratifying, the foundation of SOHS's success is donations from individuals like you. This fall, you will be asked to participate in the Annual Contributor's Fund. Thank you for giving generously and helping SOHS continue its important work of safeguarding our history and keeping it alive and relevant to the present and future.

Sincerely, Richard Seidman Development/Membership Coordinator

Continued from page 20. •••••••••••••

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Thank you to the many people and organizations who have contributed to the collections over the last three months. William Alley, Vancouver, WA Anonymous Lottie Applewhite, San Francisco, CA Loree Bristow, Carmichael, CA Ace & Margaret Carter, Central Point Pat Clason, Medford Ben Fowler, Jacksonville Phillip Hoxie, Murphys, CA Gayle Kjenstad, Estate of John Howard, Las Vegas, NV Vonya Knox, Medford Jeff LaLande, Medford Florence Lewis, Medford William D Lyons, Walnut Creek, CA Marjorie O'Harra, Phoenix Charlotte Peru, San Leandro, CA Ben Truwe, Medford Pat Watkins, Central Point Harry Watson, Medford Bill Wenzel, Medford Michelle Zundel, Ashland School District, Ashland



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- 10% discount at the History Store in Jacksonville.
- Free admission card to 22 Pacific Northwest children's museums.
- Reciprocal benefits through "Time Travelers," a network of more than 100 historical societies and museums around the country.
- Discounts on workshops, programs, and special events.
- Invitations to exhibit previews and members-only events.
- Ability to vote for Board of Trustees.
- The satisfaction of supporting your historical society.

Membership Categories:

INDIVIDUAL • \$35

FAMILY • \$50

- **PATRON \$100**
- CURATOR \$200
 - Includes all basic benefits plus recognition in Annual Report and *Southern Oregon Heritage Today*.
- DIRECTOR \$500 Includes all of the above benefits plus unlimited guest privileges.
- HISTORIAN'S CIRCLE \$1,000
 - Includes all of the above benefits plus invitations to exclusive Historian's Circle events, and private tours with Executive Director and exhibit curators.
- LIFETIME \$2,500
 - Includes all of the above benefits.
- BUSINESS \$250
 - Includes subscriptions, recognition in Annual Report and *Southern Oregon Heritage Today*, and 10% discount for all employees on memberships, admissions and History Store purchases.



This 1885 photo shows Claire and Mary Hanley, Ed, Will (on the horse) and Alice. SOHS#9473

Our Annual Harvest at Hanley Celebration

in September was extra special this year because of a visit from Michael Hanley IV and other family members. Mr. Hanley gave stagecoach rides with a team of six horses, using the same harness that carried the mail over the Siskiyous more than 100 years ago. Later, the Hanley men saddled up for a traditional photo on horses in front of the house.

> Right: Claire and Michael Hanley III, circa 1915. SOHS#10195

Below: Michael Hanley V (the young boy pictured on page 10) and his daughter Cassidy, in front of the Hanley House in September 2004.



A Hanley Tradition



Above: Michael Hanley IV and Michael Hanley V in front of the Hanley House in September 2004.











These Hanley Farm weekends each summer are an unforgettble way for the whole family to have fun, learn about and be a part of Southern Oregon's rich history.







Southern Oregon Historical Society (541) 773-6536 www.sohs.org

MUSEUMS AND SITES

HISTORY CENTER RESEARCH LIBRARY 106 N. Central, Medford

JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM HISTORY STORE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM Sth and C, Jacksonville

HANLEY FARM 1053 Hanley Rd., Hwy 238, Central Point AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

C.C. BEEKMAN HOUSE California & Laurelwood, Jacksonville

C.C. BEEKMAN BANK 3rd & California, Jacksonville

U.S. HOTEL 3rd & California, Jacksonville AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Ath & C, Jacksonville

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Claire & Martha Hanley at The Groceteria in Medford, 1945

SOHS # 11398

Southern Oregon Historical Society Mission: to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the

artifacts and documents that connect us to the past. Through exhibitions, his zoric sites, a research library, educational programs, publications, and outreach, the Society creates opportunities to explore the history that has shaped Southern Oregon.





A MEMBER-SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION

106 North Central Avenue Medford, Oregon 97501-5926