

THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAKING HISTORY TOGETHER



SOHS #13009

SOUTHERN OREGON IN THE CIVIL WAR

by Jeff LaLande

Word of the Confederates' shelling Fort Sumter remained unknown to Oregonians until arrival of the news with the steamship Cortez at the Portland waterfront on April 29, 1861, more than two weeks after the first shots of the Civil War had been fired.

Although far distant from the action, intense feelings aroused by the conflict quickly led to a fiery "war of words" in Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas counties that persisted throughout the conflict. Pro-Union newspaper editors such as Orange Jacobs hurled insults at those residents he considered traitorous "Secesh" (pro-secession) Copperheads. On the other side, Jacksonville's pro-slavery editor William T'Vault condemned Lincoln as a black-hearted dictator that had declared war against American liberty. Before the War had ended T'Vault's newspaper would be suppressed by military authorities



Officers of the Ashland-based "Mountain Rangers"

SOHS #6319

for disloyalty.

In the years leading up to the Civil War, T'Vault, who was born in South Carolina and grew up in Tennessee, had urged that the southern part of Oregon become the "Territory of Jackson," open to slavery (Oregon's territorial constitution forbade slavery). T'Vault's defense of slavery was popular enough for him to be elect-

ed to Oregon's territorial legislature, where he briefly served as Speaker of the House. T'Vault's views remained widely shared in southern Oregon as late as the presidential election of 1860: whereas Abraham Lincoln eked out a small plurality in Oregon, nearly half of Southern Oregon voters cast their ballots for the pro-slavery candidate, and in Josephine County

Continued on page 2

Zany Ganung and the Flag



SOHS #387

In the weeks after the outbreak of the Civil War, flag-raising assumed enormous import. Individuals raised Union flags all across the South; rebel flags flew in every state of the North. Southern Oregon was no exception. Our most celebrated--and mythologized--instance of a rebel flag-raising involved Zany Ganung, who upon returning from an overnight medical call with her husband, Dr. Lewis Ganung, was outraged to find a rebel palmetto-and-rattlesnake flag flying in front of J. T. Glenn's store in Jacksonville--across the street from her home. The most credible accounts say she promptly seized an ax, crossed the street and chopped down the offending flagpole. The flag she stuffed into her woodstove and set alight. In contrast, ceremonial raisings of the Union flag in Southern Oregon were uniformly peaceful and uncontested..

Lincoln ran a distant third behind Douglas.

Though most Oregonians rallied around the cause of the Union, fears over the potential danger of pro-Southern sentiments down in the Rogue River Valley contributed to the decision of Salem authorities to establish an Army post, Camp Baker, near Phoenix. As the conflict began, flag raisings -- symbolic events staged by men of either side -- threatened to provoke street brawls with opponents. Only a few weeks after news of Fort Sumter had arrived, Republican Orange Jacobs spoke during a "liberty pole" flag-raising ceremony in Phoenix. As a group of secession sympathizer glowered from the porch of a nearby store, Jacobs pointedly asked, "who among you would see the stars and stripes exchanged for a palmetto tree?" Suffice it to say that, particularly early in the War, tempers here were hot.

In late 1862, when a detachment of Army soldiers from Fort Lincoln, near Crescent City, arrived in Josephine County's mining camps to round up a few deserters, a gaggle of Southern miners vowed to disrupt that effort and "clean out Uncle




Reflecting the intensity of feeling, this pro-Union mast-head appeared in a Jacksonville paper shortly after word of Ft. Sumpter reached Southern Oregon.

Sam's boys." The fort's commanding officer promptly sent a larger

THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS





Living History Days

at Historic Hanley Farm



Featuring the **Cascade Civil War Society**

Saturday, July 8 and Sunday July 9, 11am – 4pm

Play a role and Search for a lost relative. Experience 19th century life through costumed interpreters, hands-on activities, and a historic civil war encampment. Bring the whole family for an enjoyable and educational adventure!



- Civil War Encampment and re-enactments
- Costume Photo Booth
- Old Time chores and gameS
- Live Music
- Wagon rides
- Civil War Era Barn tours
- Mercantile Store and Suttler's Tent
- Story Telling
- Historic Hanley House Tours
- Food and Refreshments

Register and purchase discounted tickets

Adults \$7, Children 4-12 \$4, SOHS Members \$4
House Tours \$3

Tickets At the gate or online at www.sohs.org

1053 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502

force to the Illinois valley to suppress the "insurrectionary movement." After posting guards at various places in the area, Captain O'Brian found and arrested the ring leader, a saloon keeper named Burnett, who was then brought back to spend time in Fort Lincoln's guard house.

As regular Army troops bound for the East Coast boarded steamships, Oregonians joined volunteer units of cavalry and infantry.

For a short while they remained at Camp Baker, near Phoenix, but by the beginning of 1863 most had been moved across the Cascade Range -- to garrison then newly established Fort Klamath, guarding the Klamath Indian reservation. As a consequence, a local home-guard militia was formed in Ashland, the self-styled "Mountain Rangers," patrolled the mountains during the summer months from their "Camp Sublimity (appar-

ently located near Howard Prairie) for unauthorized Klamaths leaving the reservation to visit the Rogue valley.

Rumors of a plot by the secret Knights of the Golden Circle -- pro-Confederate conspirators, alleged to be present in Southern Oregon and readying to rise up and take over the Pacific Coast by force -- were utterly overblown, if not actually invented, by Republican politicians. So far as is known, the very real rancor in Southern Oregon during the War resulted in no instances of deadly violence. Insults, threats, probably some fisticuffs, but apparently nothing more.

Our region's escape from serious violence during the War may have been due, in part, to a relative geographic separation: the fact that like-minded settlers had tended to come from the same region, sometimes even the same county, back East, and then chose to settle close to one another once they arrived in Southern Oregon. Many of their founding settlers of Ashland, the Talent area, and Phoenix were from the upper Midwest and were staunch Republicans. Jacksonville and most of the

WHAT'S IN A NAME: CIVIL WAR LEGACIES

In 1862, the second year of the Civil War, a group of patriotic prospectors from the Rogue valley climbed a jagged volcanic peak in the Cascade Range and named it Union Peak. Visible from high points within the valley when viewing the rim of Crater Lake, it forms the headwaters of Union Creek. The tiny Applegate valley hamlet of Uniontown took its name during the War from the local Cameron brothers' staunch, outspoken Republican views. Subsequently, a nearby post office used the name from the 1870s into the 1890s. It is believed that General U. S. Grant's July 4, 1863 Union victory at the Battle of Vicksburg is the likely origin of the name Grants Pass.

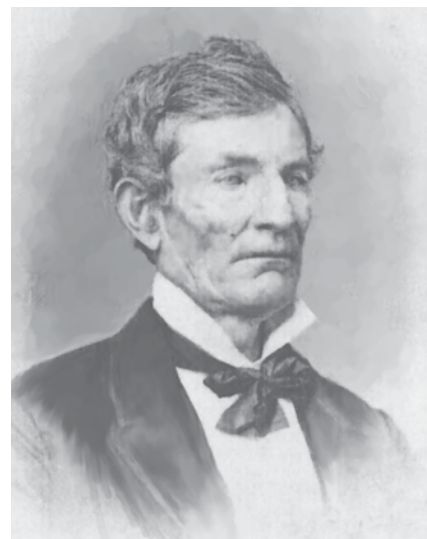
Originally bestowed on a mountain pass on the Oregon-California stage road in Josephine County, the name was soon applied to a stage stop, a post office, and eventually a nearby town.

In the mountains of northeastern Oregon, which in the early 1860s swarmed with miners after several rich gold strikes, Grant County (formed in 1864) also honored the Union general. However, Jeff Davis Creek, located in Grant County just east of Prairie City, indicates that residents of the county were far from unanimous in their admiration.



Viewing Union Peak, 1945

Rogue River National Forest
Historic Photograph Collection



William T'Vault of Jacksonville was an unabashed champion of the southern cause. SOHS #529

rest of Jackson County were solidly Democratic. Dixie-bred miners in the Applegate valley and settlers in the Butte Creek area (present Eagle Point vicinity) were known as strong Southern sympathizers.

It is likely, however, that most Jackson County Democrats abhorred secession; however, their states rights views and willingness to allow slavery caused them to vote overwhelmingly for "Peace Democrat" George McClellan over Lincoln in 1864. Josephine County reflected the same sorts of divisions, with Waldo and Brown-town heavily Republican, and the rest of the county Democrat. Douglas County had a kind of Mason-Dixon line in partisan allegiance, with Republicans like the Applegate families dominating the Yoncalla valley area in the north, and pro-Southern Democrats such as Joseph Lane (the

state's first U.S. senator) and Lafayette Mosher representative of the rest of the county.

The one known exception to Southern Oregon's lack of deadly Civil War-related violence occurred a full year-and-a-half after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox. During a late-night Christmas dance at the home of Joseph Champagne in 1866, a brawl resulted from lingering rage over War-time interpersonal conflicts between Douglas County's Republicans its pro-Southern faction. Provoked by the insults of an uninvited (and inebriated) group of "Dixie" men, knives and deringers left two men dead and a number of others seriously wounded.

(This article draws from the author's essay: " 'Dixie' of the Northwest: Southern Oregon's Civil War," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Spring 1999.)

SUMMERTIME MUSIC

"In the good old summertime" outdoor music events are a long tradition.

The tradition of civic bands was a direct offshoot of the Civil War. In May 1861 the United States War Department officially authorized every regiment of infantry and artillery have a 24-member brass band while a cavalry regiments were limited to groups of sixteen members. The Confederate army soon followed suit with its own brass bands. In July of that same year a new Union regulation extended this to provide groups of at least two musicians to every infantry, artillery, or cavalry company. Though the requirements were at time ignored, band music flourished during the war and was carried over to town culture -- particularly during the summer -- once peace was restored.

In 1889, more than 2500 people attended a band festival in Jacksonville Oregon. All day Sunday bands played on the balcony of the US Hotel while the crowds listened below in the street.

The Ashland City Band has



The Ashland City Band in 1892 at their bandstand on the site of today's Angus Bowmer Theater.

A Southern Oregon Historical Society Benefit Event



Hanley Farm Music Festival

Sponsored by James Collier

August 5 • Noon to 8pm • 1053 Hanley Rd. Central Point

Featuring

Sage Meadows Band



Phoenix Sigalove



Karen Lovely Band



with Ben Rice



Intuitive Compass



Fret Drifters



Great Food & Beer, Wine & Refreshments
Jacksonville Farmers Market
Raffle (including autographed Jim Belushi items)

Tickets Available

Purchase Online - www.sohs.org
SOHS Library - 106 N. Central, Medford (open 12-4pm Wed-Fri)
Music Coop - 260 E. Main, Ashland
Hilltop Music - The Shoppes at Exit 24 Phoenix

\$20/General Admission
\$10/SOHS Members & Kids 6-18, Children 5 and under Free



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held concerts in the Lithia Park area since the 1890s. In 1949 the Butler Bandshell in Lithia Park was completed with big crowds turning out to see the new venue.

At times the concerts were tiny. A photo of a Woodville (today's Rogue River) performance in 1912 shows a band that appears to have about four members performing to an audience about twice that size. A few benches were all that was needed.

Some towns went to great lengths

to have concerts. The Greater Medford Club built a bandshell and the city strung lights and built benches to accommodate listeners at city park summer concerts in the early 1900s.

This summer, people can enjoy a new Music Festival under the trees at the Historic Hanley Farm. August 5 from noon to 8pm, five great regional bands will entertain festival-goers. Food, beer and wine, a farmer's market, and a great raffle will round out this day.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPONSORS: JAMES MORRISON COLLIER



Farm and music are a natural fit for Rogue Valley philanthropist James Morrison Collier, sponsor of the Hanley Farm Music Festival

on Saturday, August 5. For Jim, an "Iowa farm boy" whose financial resources initially came from hybridized corn, the combination of the two proved to be "music to his ears."

Collier had hoped to be a professional pianist but claims he lacked the talent. "I might have been a performer at retirement homes," he says, "so I never pursued it. Instead, I like showcasing people who do have those talents." That's why Collier supports so many arts organizations, and that's why he became the principal sponsor for the Southern Oregon Historical Society's Hanley Farm Music Festival and the very talented local groups who will be performing there.

From 12 noon to 4 pm on August 5, festival attendees will be able to enjoy both the casual country venue of 150-year-old Hanley Farm and a day long celebration of regional talent. Blues artist Karen Lovely headlines the day with two

concerts, sharing the stage with fellow blues musician, Ben Rice. Other groups include country singer Sage Meadows and her band, the folk music of Intuitive Compass; Phoenix Sigalove, whose songs and stories chronicle a year-long adventure on horseback across the American West; and the futuristic acoustical guitar wizards, the Fret Drifters. This roster of talent has opened and headlined at Britt Festivals, starred at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and performed in venues up and down the West Coast.

Because of Jim's generosity, SOHS is able to make this full day of exciting music in the beautiful set-

ting of Hanley Farm available to the public for a nominal fee. Tickets are only \$20; \$10 for children ages 6 to 18 and SOHS members. Children age 5 and under get in free. Tickets can be purchased at www.sohs.org and at the gate.

Some chair seating will be available or attendees can bring a blanket and relax on the lawn under the trees. Visitors can also try their luck at a raffle for Jim Belushi memorabilia; rolling insulated picnic hampers stuffed with picnic items and gift certificates; faerie gardens; and other fun prizes.

The event features a full selection of food, beer, wine, and mead. The Jacksonville Saturday Market will also be at Hanley Farm that day.

A big thank you to Jim Collier for making such an event possible! In "farm speak," Jim has "primed the pump." Multiple opportunities exist for others to sponsor upcoming SOHS activities and events. [See the list on page __ of this newsletter.] Sponsors like Jim (and you!) enable SOHS and Hanley Farm to continue to "make music" by building on a 60-year reputation for bringing history, culture, and community together!



Jim Collier at the piano. His generosity and love of music has made a profound impact on Southern Oregon's performing arts.



Windows in Time

Windows in Time is a free monthly lecture program, co-sponsored by the Southern Oregon Historical Society and Jackson County Library Services, that brings alive the people value and heritage of our region.

June 7 & 14 Michael Hanley and His Friends - Larry Mullaly

July 5 & 12 The Hanley Family Adventures: Alaska, Chile, and Guatemala - Pat Harper

August 2 & 9 Hot Springs, Sacred Ground, Healing Properties? - Amy Blossom

September 6 & 13 Southern Pacific's Siskiyou Line: The Later Years - Tony Johnson

October 4 & 11 Grace's Visit to the Rogue Valley, 1914: Travelogue Film Made in 1914 - Ben Truwe

November 1 & 8 The Fruits of Their Labors: The Bracero Program of Southern Oregon - Lina Cordia

December 6 & 13 Believe It or Not: The Strange and Uniqu Stories of Southern Oregon - Dennis Powers

Medford Branch Library
(205 South Central Avenue)
First Wednesday of each month, 12-1 pm.

Ashland Branch Library
(410 Siskiyou Boulevard)
Second Wednesday of each month, 12-1 pm
History vignettes from SOHS can be heard every weekday on JPR.

SOHS Research Library:
106 N. Central, Medford, OR.
Open Wednesday through Friday from noon to 4 pm. For further details on events and services visit the SOHS website at: www.sohs.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Martha Hanley's Willow



In 1861, Martha Hanley planted a willow tree outside her home on the occasion of the birth of a new son. Through the years, even as parts of the tree have died, it continues to put out fresh shoots. This century-and-a-half-old Oregon Heritage Tree can still be seen at the Southern Oregon Historical Society's Hanley Farm.

SOHS resembles that tree as it changes and grows. This year, volunteers have stepped up to oversee programs, events and activities; membership continues to expand and over 1500 individuals have participated in SOHS activities and Hanley Farm events in the last two months.

We are working hard at bring in new members. For a limited time, those who join or renew their membership in the Southern Oregon Historical Society prior to July 15 will also receive a one-year membership in the Oregon Historical Society. This offer allows you to contribute tow-



Still thriving: Martha Hanley's 1860 willow tree has been designated an Oregon Heitage Tree.

Southern Oregon history but includes unlimited free admission to the Oregon Historical Society Museum in Portland, copies of OHS award-winning historical journals, complimentary membership in Time Travelers, a network of historical societies and museums across the country, and more.

If you are already an SOHS member, consider renewing early and taking advantage of this generous offer. Regardless of your renewal date, we'll extend your membership for another year.

Finally we continue to seek out and receive support from donors and sponsors. In the months ahead

there are multiple opportunities to underwrite activities that benefit from extra funding: quarterly newsletters, our annual Scarecrow Festival and Haunted Field tours, Christmas wreath making, Hanley Farm Christmas tours, and more! The form on the opposite page provides more details in this regard.

By "making history together" we will ensure the willow tree thrives and that fresh shoots continue to grow. Help us make this happen!

Doug McGearry
President
SOHS Board of Trustees

Summer Membership Drive: Two-for-One Offer!



THE OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1898



Those who join or renew their membership with SOHS between June 15 and July 15, 2017 will receive at no cost a one-year membership to the Oregon Historical Society. This benefit includes free admission to the Oregon Historical Society Museum in Portland and four issues of their award-winning *Oregon Historical Quarterly*.

To enroll or renew, go to the SOHS website at <http://www.sohs.org/membership>.



2017 SOHS EVENT SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES

*Our donors and sponsors make events possible.
Be a contributor to one of our major programs!*

JULY 8 & 9: LIVING HISTORY DAYS:

This event is expected to draw 500 people. It will feature the Cascade Civil War Society, crafts, Hanley house tours, hayrides, music, food and more.

AUG. 5: HANLEY FARM MUSIC FESTIVAL:

This major SOHS fundraiser bringing some 500 music fans for a day featuring several groups providing a summer day of music with food, drinks and activities.

OCT. 7 & 8: SCARECROW FESTIVAL:

Scarecrow making, pumpkin painting, apple bobbing, Hanley house tours, hayrides, food and music along with a people's choice scarecrow contest. Nearly 900 people participated in this event last year. A family fun event.

OCT. TBA: HAUNTED FIELD WALK:

In the dark of night, a family-friendly walk through the fields where scarecrows coming alive in a story typical of an American folktale. In 2016 750 people enjoyed the Crater High School Renaissance Academy actors at their best. Now in its 6th year.

NOV. 25: HOLIDAY AT HANLEY WREATH MAKING: About 250 people come out to make their Holiday Wreaths. There is also a Kids Craft Corner; Holiday Boutique; Visit with Santa; and Hot Cider & Fresh Baked Cookies. A perennial favorite.

DEC. 26 : HOLIDAYS AT HANLEY OPEN HOUSE:

A tour of Hanley House beautifully decorated for the Holidays. An absolute must for architecture buffs and history enthusiasts alike. In keeping with the rich tradition of history and hospitality.

ANNUAL BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP*

At the \$1000 or more level

1. Inclusion in all media releases and contacts
2. On-site product booth available at each event
3. On-site banner advertising your company/product
4. Your logo on the SOHS website and newsletter
5. 5 complementary tickets to all events (worth \$300)
6. Three-year business membership (worth \$225)
7. Advertising in the event programs
8. 20% discount on SOHS photos and merchandise

At the \$500-\$1000 level

Numbers 4-8 above

At the \$100-\$500 level

Numbers 7-8 above

*Good for the 2017 calendar year

Please complete this form, copy for your records and return with your sponsorship payment to:
SOHS – 106 N. Central Avenue – Medford, OR 97501

Company/Person's Name _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amount enclosed: _____ by check,

or _____ by card: Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____



Catherine Turso and Emma Abby were among the many Society volunteers who helped at this May 18-20 Children's Heritage Fair.



CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Treasures From the Research Library

The Southern Oregon Historical Society Research Library is one of the largest archival repositories in the state of Oregon. Among the irreplaceable items is the hand-written Journal of the Mountain Rangers, a chronicle of this Civil War unit, scrupulously maintained through the final three years of the war by the regimental "journalist," Oliver C. Applegate. His opening inscription reflects the youthful idealism of many of those who joined the colors: "The science of war and the arts of peace, the one as a protection to the other should be taught together."

The collection includes numerous diaries, journals, hundreds of maps and architectural drawings, business records, and more than 1,000 oral histories. An estimated 100,000 photographic images of Southern Oregon are maintained at the SOHS Research Library. The collection of Jacksonville photographer Peter Britt (housed

on behalf of the Oregon University System) alone comprises 5,000 glass plate negatives and prints made from them.

"For a regional area," a library



The opening page of the leather-bound Journal of the Mountain Rangers is dated May 2, 1863. SOHS MS 355

volunteer notes, "it's pretty remarkable. We have requests from all over the world for information. And it's been really important to us to keep our doors open for community members to benefit, as well."

The SOHS Library maintains multiple catalogs and indexes and offers state-of-the-art Internet support. The Research Menu on the SOHS website provides access to many, but not all SOHS Library and Archives sources. Please be sure to search the Online Catalog, and visit, call or email the Library for assistance.

Hours of the Research Library are 12pm-4pm Wednesday- Friday. There is free admission for SOHS members, \$5 per visit for non-members and \$2 for students. The library is located in the SOHS History Center at 106 N. Central Avenue in downtown Medford and can be reached at (541) 773-6536 ext. 200 or on the web at sohs.org.