

Exhibit Home

Overview

This exhibit uses archival records to illuminate the courage and resilience of Black pioneers who built lives for themselves and their families in Oregon despite the many barriers they faced. The exhibit puts their experiences in context with chronologies and related resources before telling their stories augmented by photos and original documents.

Black History Context

Black Individuals and Families in Oregon

Sources and Credits



Mary Ann "Amanda" Mathews, 1828-1905, one of many Oregon Black pioneers profiled in this exhibit.

Black History Context

This exhibit section offers background information about trends and events that had significant effects on the lives of both Black slaves and free Black people in the United States generally and in Oregon from 1840 to 1870 and beyond.



Oregon Country in 1846 after the treaty with Great Britain setting the northern border at the 49th parallel.

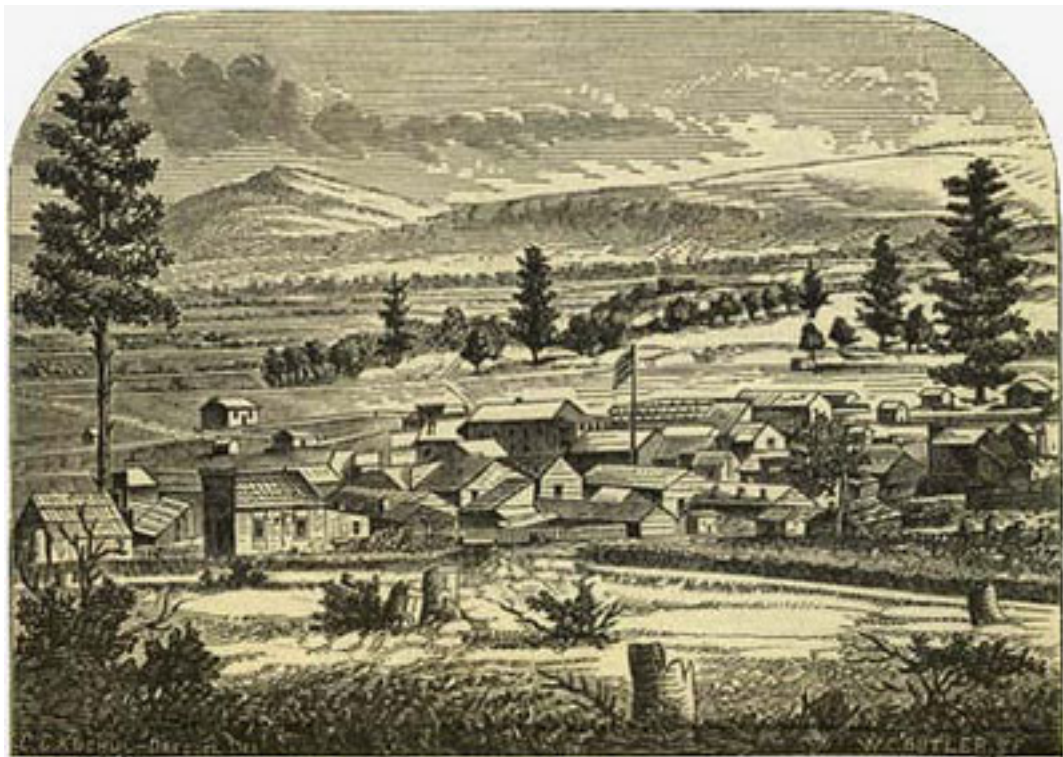
Official web site of

Oregon Secretary of State

Exhibit Introduction

This exhibit highlights the lives of early Black pioneers who came to Oregon between 1840 and 1870. This early settlement period is of particular interest because of Oregon's laws regarding the immigration of Blacks to Oregon. At various times, the Provisional and Territorial governments passed laws excluding Blacks from residing in the area, and Oregon's Constitution, adopted in 1857, included specific language forbidding either free or enslaved Blacks who did not already reside in the new state.

Despite the discriminatory laws, there were a number of Blacks who settled in Oregon during these years. In this exhibit, we shine a light on their experiences through surviving, documentary evidence. The stories illustrated here relate to people brought to Oregon as slaves and those of free Blacks who made the perilous journey west, possibly motivated by new opportunities and the chance for a better life.



Jacksonville (shown here circa 1855) was at the heart of southern Oregon's pro-slavery movement. (Hutchings panoramic image courtesy Online Archive of California)

Slavery: A National and Oregon Summary

National Events

Slavery has been called America's original sin, corrupting the culture and politics of the nation. By the early 1800s, the economies of northern and southern states had clearly diverged, with urban industries growing in the north and rural slave plantations dominating in the south. Over the decades, Congress tried to balance these two opposite and competing ways of life as the young nation expanded geographically to the west. It prohibited slavery in the new Northwest Territory around the Great Lakes in 1787 and practically set the Ohio River as the boundary between slave and free territory reaching west to the Mississippi River.

Much of the national struggle for the next 70 years revolved around a competition to admit slave and free states to the union. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 attempted to keep a balance of power by drawing an east-west line near the 36th parallel that allowed slavery below it and outlawed it above it. This Band-Aid on a festering wound failed to solve the underlying problems caused by slavery. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 effectively repealed it by allowing each new state south of the 40th parallel to decide whether to be a slave state or free state. Three years later, the U.S. Supreme Court went further in the *Dred Scott* case, stating that the federal government lacked the power to regulate slavery in territories acquired after the creation of the country. This decision tore the Band-Aid off the slavery wound and the nation quickly descended into the Civil War.



The U.S. Supreme Court denied Dred Scott's bid for freedom from slavery and further divided the nation in 1857.

The Oregon Situation

The Oregon Lash Law



The 1843 Oregon provisional legislature passed a measure prohibiting slavery but made no mention of free Blacks. The next year, Peter Burnett, bolstered by a new wave of fellow Midwestern settlers, introduced a bill that extended new restrictions against Blacks.

One section required people holding slaves in Oregon to remove them within three years or the slaves would be freed. Another section required free Blacks over 18 to leave Oregon or be subject to trial. If found guilty, the person was to "receive upon his or her bare back not less than twenty nor more than thirty-nine stripes, to be inflicted by the constable of the proper county." The punishment was to be repeated every six months until the person departed.

While geographically distant from the national infection caused by slavery, Oregon was not immune. The growing divisions over slavery were imported to Oregon in the 1840s as waves of white settlers traveled west on the Oregon Trail with potentially racist attitudes. These immigrants, betraying their Midwest and border state experiences, brought their hatred of slavery and free Blacks across the plains to their new homes. The great majority of these new Oregonians simply wanted to create an all-white society free of the racial problems threatening to cause an American civil war.

This "lash law" passed but was soon changed to replace the whipping provisions with ones calling for forced labor followed by removal from Oregon. After a shift in the makeup of the legislature, the law was repealed in 1845.

Amid the national turmoil, delegates to the Oregon Constitutional Convention in 1857 sought statehood to better control their own governmental destiny. They grappled with issues related to race and slavery throughout the proceedings. In the end, the delegates referred their questions to voters who overwhelmingly voted in November 1857 to prohibit slavery and ban free Blacks. Although the resulting laws were not really enforced, they still sent a message. Thus, while small numbers of Blacks were tolerated in Oregon throughout the mid 1800s, they struggled on the margins of society with few friends and fewer rights.

National and Oregon Chronology of Events

These significant events, both nationally and in Oregon, affected the lives of Blacks during the years of 1840 to 1870:

May 2, 1843

Oregon settlers meet in Champoege to create a provisional government to last until “such time as the United States of America can extend their jurisdiction over us.”

July 5, 1843

Oregon settlers meet again in Champoege and pass a temporary blueprint for the provisional government including “The Organic Laws of Oregon,” which prohibit slavery.

June 18, 1844

The Provisional Government passes Oregon’s first Black exclusion law. It states that Blacks who tried to settle in Oregon would be publicly whipped – thirty-nine lashes, repeated every six months – until they left Oregon.



The Provisional Government seal in the Oregon State Capitol.

December 19, 1844

Exclusion law is changed. Blacks who tried to settle in Oregon would not be whipped; instead, they would be forced to do public labor.

July 3, 1845

A Provisional Government legislative committee repealed actions relating to slavery.

June 15, 1846

Secretary of State (and future president) James Buchanan signs the Treaty of Oregon, ending a 28-year joint occupation of Oregon by the United States and Great Britain.

August 14, 1848

Oregon becomes a U.S. territory.

September 21, 1849

The Oregon Territorial Legislature enacts an exclusion law that prohibits “...negro or mulatto to enter into, or reside within the limits of this Territory.” However, Negroes or Mulattoes and their children, already living in the Territory were not subject to this law.

September 18, 1850

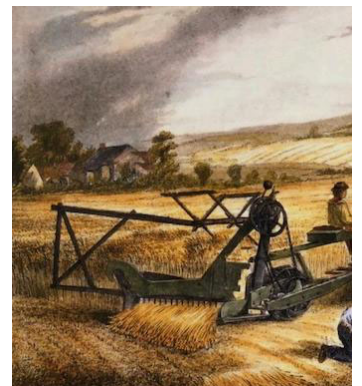
Congress passes the Donation Land Act, giving free land to white settlers.



Cayuse Indians
Tiloukaikt and
Tomahas led the
attack on the
Whitman Mission



The historic May 1843 Champoege meeting where trappers and settlers voted to form a provisional government for the Oregon Country. This mural by Barry Faulkner is in the House Chamber in the Oregon State Capitol.



The Donation Land Act of 1850 drew settlers to Oregon searching for the agrarian dream.

in 1847. Blacks were not alone in suffering persecution.

September 2, 1851

Oregon's 1849 exclusion law is enforced against Jacob Vanderpool, the only instance of an African American being expelled under one of Oregon's exclusion laws.

May 1, 1854

Oregon "inadvertently" repeals its 1849 exclusion law.

1854

The Legislature bars testimony of "Negroes, mulattoes, and Indians, or persons one half or more of Indian blood," in proceedings involving a white person.

March 6, 1857

The United States Supreme Court, in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, rules that a negro, whether enslaved or free, could not be an American citizen, and that the federal government had no power to regulate slavery in federal territories.

November 9, 1857

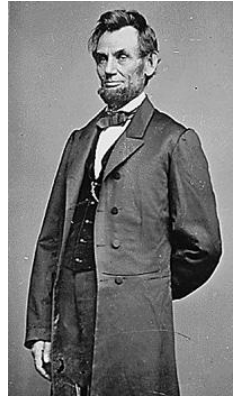
Oregon voters approve the Oregon constitution, which bans both slavery and new Black residents in Oregon. It makes it illegal for Blacks to own real estate, make contracts, vote, or use the legal system.

February 14, 1859

Oregon becomes the 33rd state, admitted as an anti-slavery state and the only state admitted with an "exclusionary clause."

November 6, 1860

Abraham Lincoln elected President.



Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860. He was assassinated less than five years later.



Tensions between the North and the South finally broke out into open rebellion in 1861 at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. [Enlarged image of Bombardment of Fort Sumter courtesy of the Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3b52027/) (<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3b52027/>).

April 12, 1861

Civil War begins.

October 21, 1861

United States Senator from Oregon, Edward Dickinson Baker, is killed fighting in the Civil War. A close friend of Abraham Lincoln's, Lincoln had named his second son, Edward Baker Lincoln, after the senator.

May 20, 1862

President Lincoln signs Homestead Act.

1862

Oregon Legislature passes law banning interracial marriage and institutes a \$5.00 annual tax on Blacks, Chinese, Hawaiians (Kanakas), and Mulattos. Those unable to pay had to perform road maintenance.

January 1, 1863

Emancipation Proclamation takes effect, freeing slaves in Confederate States.

January 31, 1865

Congress passes the Thirteenth Amendment:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Both Oregon senators, Benjamin Franklin Harding and James Nesmith, vote for the amendment; Nesmith is one of only two Democratic senators to support the amendment. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Oregon's only representative, John McBride, also votes for the amendment.

April 9, 1865

Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union General Ulysses S. Grant.

April 15, 1865

Lincoln is assassinated.

June 13, 1866

Congress passes the Fourteenth Amendment:

No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

September 19, 1866

Oregon ratifies the Fourteenth Amendment. The amendment renders Oregon's exclusion clause irrelevant, although it remains in the state constitution until 1926.

June 19, 1868

Letitia Carson certifies her homestead claim in Douglas County.

October 16, 1868

Oregon rescinds its ratification of the 14th Amendment.

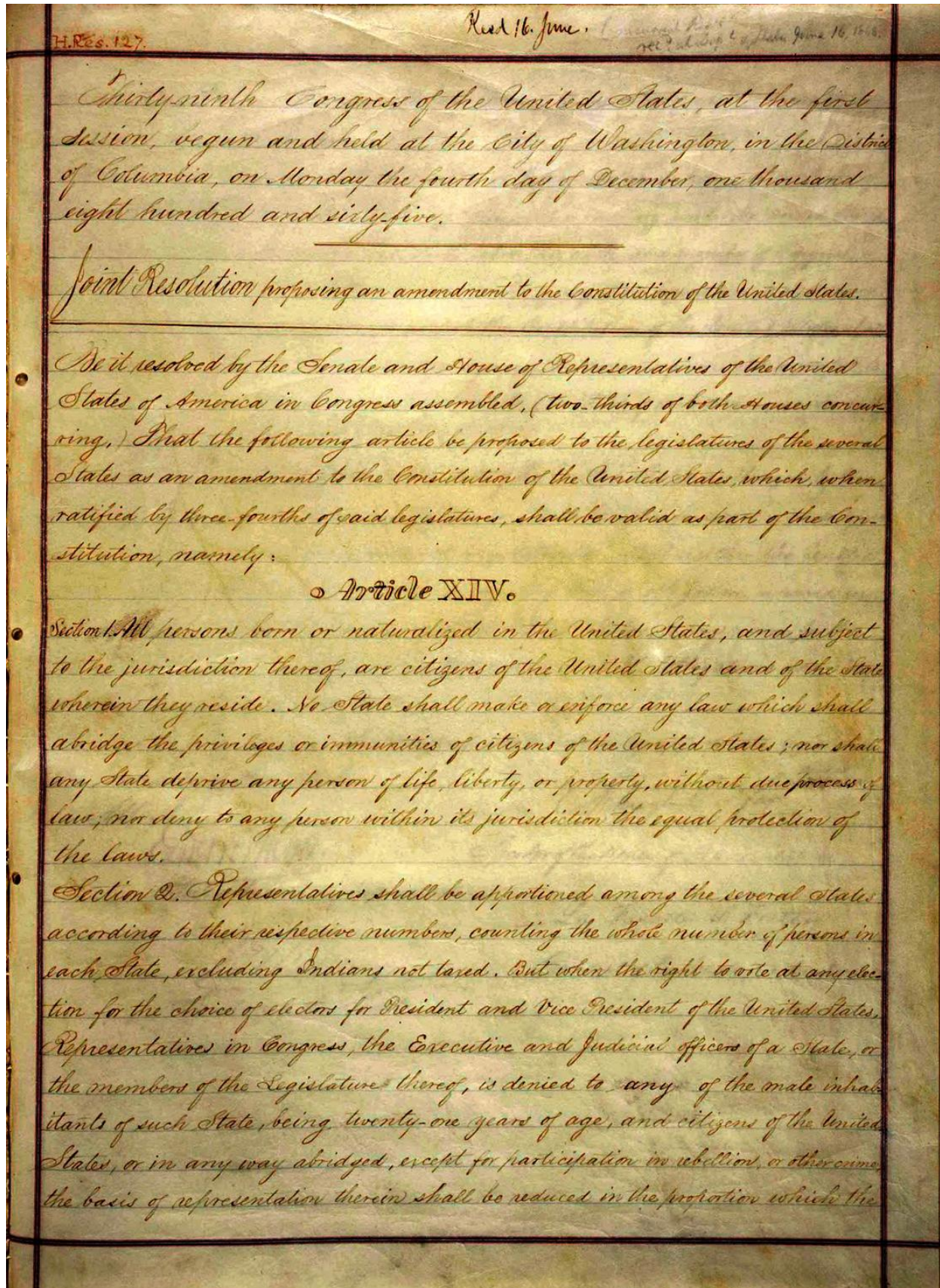
February 26, 1869

Congress passes the Fifteenth Amendment:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

February 3, 1870

The Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified. Despite Oregon's inaction on ratifying, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that African Americans could vote because the amendment was the law of the land.



President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/pga.02797/>



Later Developments

Although this exhibit focuses on the 1840 to 1870 time period, Oregon continued to struggle with racial equality as demonstrated by the following chronology of later national and Oregon developments:

November 2, 1900

Oregon voters reject a proposal to repeal the exclusion clause in the constitution.

1903

The Advocate, a weekly newspaper for the “intelligent discussion and authentic diffusion of matters appertaining to the colored people, especially of Portland and the State of Oregon,” was started. It included societal news (i.e. births, deaths, marriages, etc.), editorials, job announcements, civil rights issues, etc.

1904

George Hardin becomes the first, African-American in Portland, to be named as a police officer.



The Advocate newspaper served as an influential voice of the Black community in Portland beginning in 1903.



Beatrice Cannady pioneered rights for Blacks in Oregon. ([Image courtesy Oregon Encyclopedia](https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/cannady_beatrice_morrow/) (https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/cannady_beatrice_morrow/))

1914

Portland's chapter of the NAACP is founded and is the oldest, continuously chartered chapter west of the Mississippi.

1921

Ku Klux Klan organizes chapters in Oregon.

1922

Beatrice Cannady becomes the first, African-American woman to graduate from Lewis & Clark Law School.

1926

Exclusionary Clause is removed from the Oregon Constitution.

1927

State Constitution is amended to remove voting restrictions against African and Chinese Americans.

1951

Law repealed prohibiting inter-racial marriage.

1953

Public Accommodations' Law prohibits racial discrimination by businesses.

1954

Supreme Court upholds *Brown vs. The Board of Education of Topeka*, abolishing segregated schools.

1957

Oregon Fair Housing Act passes.

1959

The Oregon Legislature ratifies Fifteenth Amendment 90 years after its adoption in the United States.

1964

National Civil Rights Act passes outlawing unequal voter registration requirements; and racial segregation in schools, workplaces, and public places.



Proponents of Oregon's 1953 Public Accommodations Bill, also known as the Civil Rights Bill. The legislation required "full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of any place of public



Portland was one of many cities to experience race riots in the late 1960s. (Image courtesy Oregon Historical Society)

1965

Congress passes the Voters’ Rights Act, prohibiting qualifications or pre-requisites to vote.

1967

Racial tensions result in riots in Portland.

April 25, 1973

Oregon re-ratifies the 14th Amendment 105 years after rescinding their ratification and actual ratification by 28 states.

1984

Margaret Carter becomes the first African-American woman elected to the Oregon Legislature.

1988

African exchange student, Mulugeta Seraw, is killed in Portland by racist “skinheads.”

1992

First African-American, James A. Hill, Jr., is elected to statewide office as State Treasurer.

2002

Measure requiring the removal of racist language from the State Constitution passes.

2007

Oregon Equality Act passes.

accommodation, resort or amusement, without any distinction, discrimination or restriction on account of race, religion, color or national origin.” **Enlarged image courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society**
[\(https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/signing-oregon39s-civil-rights-bill-1953/\).](https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/signing-oregon39s-civil-rights-bill-1953/)



Jim Hill served as Oregon’s first Black statewide official in 1992.

What's in a Name?

One of the difficulties in researching the history of the Black pioneers, particularly those that may have been slaves at some point in their lives, is the lack of consistent names or names at all. Some individuals in this exhibit used their owner's surname and in some cases, evidence suggests the owner may in fact have been the father.

In 1850 and 1860, there were separate census enumerations of slaves in each state where slavery was legal. Individual slaves were only listed under the owners name and rarely included more than the gender and age of a slave. For example, an entry in the 1850 slave schedule for Franklin County Missouri, has an entry for James Southworth which lists him as owning 3 slaves. Two of the slaves appear to be relatively close matches for Pauline and her son Louis who were brought to Oregon three years after this enumeration. Louis continued to use the Southworth name throughout his life, but other Black immigrants used different surnames after arriving in Oregon.

Another example is Reuben Shipley and his wife Mary Jane who donated land for the Mount Union Cemetery near Philomath. Although he went by the surname of Shipley, his memorial marker lists him as R. E. Ficklin. We believe this surname is from Reuben's original slave owner. Reuben's last surviving son also used the Ficklin surname. Adoption of a new surname may have reflected a new status or self-determination in the lives of these individuals, however these changes can cause confusion and difficulties in making connections in the historical records.



Since slaves were property, they sometimes took the surname of their owners. Shown here is a pen and ink drawing of a South Carolina slave market in 1833. (Image courtesy Library and Archives Canada)

Who Could Marry?

Oregon passed a law in 1862 (and amended it in 1866) making it illegal for individuals of different races to marry. Because of this prohibition and combined with the small numbers of Black or mulatto individuals residing in Oregon, several relationships appear unconventional.



Prohibitions in Oregon law led to unconventional relationships that did not always include formal marriage. (Photo courtesy Cornell University Library)

Examples

John Mathews marriage to Eliza Wooley in 1837 was most likely illegal in Tennessee. Assuming she was white (as listed in most census records), their union would not have been recognized in Oregon either.

John's sisters, Susanna and Maranda Mathews, had children from relationships with men they never formally married.

Susanna's daughter Lucy Johnson married her first cousin, Hezekiah Mathews.

Letitia Carson's granddaughter, Mary Alice Bingham, married the younger brother of her mother's husband.

Drury Mathews and Martha Carson both married spouses with Native American ancestry.

The prohibitions on formal or legal recognition of a marriage often left families having to defend their rights in court. Letitia Carson filed suit to reclaim property dispersed by the probate administrator of her "common law" husband's estate. Although there are no records of legal prosecution of individuals that intermarried, the law prohibiting marriages between certain races was not repealed until 1951.

Black Individuals and Families in Oregon

This exhibit section uses original sources such as census, probate and death records—much of it from the Oregon State Archives holdings—to piece together the lives of some of the Black individuals and families in Oregon from 1840 to 1870. Research into many of these people yields sparse results and often leaves more questions than answers, but that is the nature of this challenging area of documentary exploration.

Their Stories

Holmes Family

Robin and Polly Holmes

Mary Jane Holmes Shipley Drake

Louis (Lewis) Alexander Southworth

Maria and Johnson

Monimia Travers

George Washington Bush

Rose and John Jackson

George Washington

Tom Davis

Allen Ervin Flowers

Morris Thomas and Jane Snowden

Abner Hunt Francis

Mathews Family

Ellender Penelope "Nellie" Mathews

John Dudley Mathews

Susan/Susanna "Sucky" Mathews

Drury Mathews

Mary Ann "Amanda" Mathews

Carson Family

Letitia Carson

Martha Jane Carson

Adam "Andrew Jackson" Carson

Hannah and Eliza Gorman

William (John) Livingstone

Rachel Belden Brooks

William P. Johnson; Elizabeth Johnson Waterford; Jackson "Jack" Bonter

America Waldo Bogle and Richard Arthur Bogle

Amanda Gardiner Johnson and Benjamin Johnson



Louis Southworth lived most of his adult life in Oregon. He is one of many Black Oregonians described in this section of the exhibit.

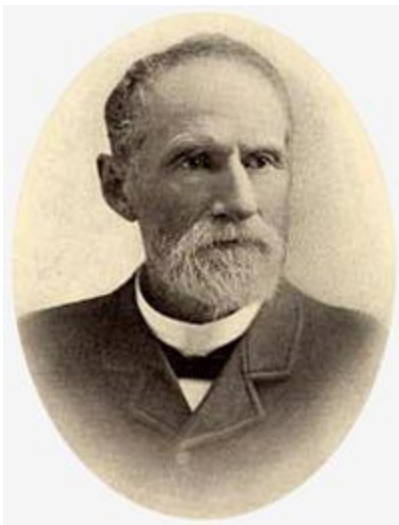
Robin and Polly Holmes

Robin and Polly Holmes arrived in Oregon in 1844, as the property of Nathaniel Ford. In their mid-thirties at the time, they brought with them three of their six children. Their other three children were sold off as slaves in Missouri, prior to them leaving.

Before leaving Missouri, Ford promised the Holmes family their freedom upon arrival if they would help him establish a farm in the Oregon Territory. Settling in the Willamette Valley near Rickreall, Ford built a small cabin for the Holmes' but he denied the family its promised freedom.

By 1850, Robin and Polly had five children and Ford granted them and their infant freedom but kept their other four children as slaves. Harriet, one of the children still held by Ford, died in 1851. Recognizing that Ford would not willingly free the surviving children, Robin began an unprecedented legal battle to get custody of his children.

Robin was up against formidable odds. He had lived his life as a slave, raised in slave culture, bought and sold and was illiterate. He was bringing suit to an influential man with powerful connections, who was also recently elected to the territorial legislature.



Reuben Boise acted as Holmes' attorney. Boise later served as a delegate to the Oregon Constitutional Convention in 1857.

In 1852, Robin's attorney, Reuben P. Boise, mounted a credible case against Ford. He filed a writ of habeas corpus in Second District Court in Polk County, seeking the return of the Holmes' "unlawfully detained" children. The intent of the writ was to require Ford to bring the children to court and explain under what authority he was holding them. If Ford failed to satisfy the court, he would likely be ordered to return the children to Holmes, or so Holmes hoped. According to the initial brief court record, Ford "admits that he detained" the children.

The case worked its way through lower courts and finally reached the bench of Chief Justice George A. Williams of the Oregon Territory Supreme Court fifteen months later. Williams ruled against Ford, declaring that slavery could not exist in Oregon without special legislation to protect it. He then declared the Holmes children free. Following the ruling, and with their rights to their children restored, Robin and Polly Holmes moved to Marion County where they operated a successful plant nursery.

Transcript and images of Robin Holmes' 1862 will

(<https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/9975590>)

This 1854 Polk County assessment roll shows the value of Robin Holmes personal and total property (highlighted).

9

| Names of Persons Taxed | Poll Tax | valuation | Total |
|---|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | of Personal Property dollars | valuation of all property dollars |
| Arinath Kenoyes | 1 | 280 | 280 |
| Jm Bernfield | 1 | " " | " " |
| Richard Rhoads | 1 | 165 | 165 |
| Wm Franson | " | 1565 | 1565 |
| Barnet Haggart | 1 | 2170 | 2170 |
| Wm. Savago | 1 | 1775 | 1775 |
| Franklin Yocum | 1 | 1930 | 1930 |
| John A. Galt | 1 | 140 | 140 |
| Eucinda Sparks | " | 800 | 800 |
| Wm H. McKinn | 1 | 4010 | 4010 |
| Jonathan Buntley | 1 | 250 | 250 |
| E. W. Wilson | 1 | 590 | 590 |
| James Frederick | 1 | 4845 | 4845 |
| James Frederick Administrator of the estate of Thompson Martin | | 885 | 885 |
| Ira P. Smith | 1 | 3255 | 3255 |
| McMinn Adams | 1 | 465 | 465 |
| Eveline Cunningham | " | 340 | 340 |
| George Brown | 1 | 2515 | 2515 |
| John S. Indruck | 1 | 890 | 890 |
| Voluntine Sears | 1 | 360 | 360 |
| Helix Saughlin | 1 | 160 | 160 |
| Robin Holmes | " | 655 | 655 |
| Wm. Windman | 1 | 3850 | 3850 |
| W. S. Gilliam | 1 | 2755 | 2755 |
| James Parker | 1 | 510 | 510 |
| Thos. C. Rutt | 1 | " " | " " |
| Effanir Mc Crackin | " | 300 | 300 |
| John Bealy | 1 | 500 | 500 |
| John H. Kimsay | 1 | 2010 | 2010 |
| | | | 37970 |

Mary Jane Holmes Shipley Drake

Mary Jane Holmes Shipley Drake (1841–1925)

Mary Jane Holmes Shipley Drake, born in Missouri in 1841, was one of Robin and Polly Holmes' children involved in the Holmes vs Ford lawsuit. After Robin and Polly freed their children from Ford, Mary Jane Holmes voluntarily remained with the Fords as a servant for another four years.

In 1857, Mary Jane was sixteen and wanted to marry Ruben Shipley. Shipley was a former slave from Missouri, who was promised his freedom if he would drive a team of oxen to Oregon with his owner, Robert Shipley. True to his word, Ruben was freed after they arrived in the Oregon Territory and he worked hard to save enough money to purchase a large amount of farmland land near Corvallis. In order to marry Mary Jane, Ford demanded that Ruben pay him \$700 (\$19,446 in today's dollars) even though she had been liberated by the Territorial Supreme Court four years earlier. Regardless, Ruben agreed to pay Ford the money to ensure Mary Jane's freedom.

Mary Jane and Reuben had six children and became well-respected members of the community. In 1861, they donated three acres of land from their hillside farm for the formation of Mt. Union Cemetery. After Ruben's death, Mary Jane married R.G. Drake in 1875. Mary Jane Holmes Shipley Drake outlived her second husband and all but one of her children. She died in 1925.

View Mary Jane's cemetery headstone (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25387852/mary_jane-shipley/photo#view-photo=162554802) (courtesy Find a Grave)



Mary Jane Holmes Shipley
Drake.

Mary Jane's 1925 Oregon death certificate. Based on census information, her birth year and age at death are likely wrong on the death certificate.

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH

County Multnomah State Oregon State Registered No. 233
Township _____ or Village _____ Local Registered No. 233
City Portland No. 472- Sellwood Blvd St. _____ Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME

Mary Jane Drake
(a) Residence. No. 472- Sellwood Blvd St. _____
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident, give city or town and state)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 31 yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX Female 4 COLOR OR RACE Colored 5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word) Widowed

5a If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of Robert Drake

6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) Nov 29- 1823

7 AGE Years Months Days If less than 1 day,hrs. ormin.
101 I 27

8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Housewife
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)
(c) Name of employer

9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Pike Co
(State or country) Missouri

10 NAME OF FATHER Robert Homes

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) Mo
(State or country)

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER No Known

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) Not Known
(State or country)

14 Informant Ransom Hickman
(Address) City

15 Filed 129, 19 25 Abie Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Jan 26- 1925

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY That I attended deceased from Jan 20 to Jan 24, 1925, that I last saw him alive on Jan 24, 1925, and that death occurred on the date stated above, at _____ m.

The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: _____

Senility (Arteriosclerosis)
(duration) _____ yrs., _____ mos., _____ days.

CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) _____

(duration) _____ yrs., _____ mos., _____ days.

18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? _____

Did an operation precede death? _____ Date of _____

Was there an autopsy? _____

What test confirmed diagnosis? _____

(Signed) R. S. Skerms M. D.
Jan 28, 1925 (Address) 167 1/2 E. 3rd

* State the Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL Corvallis, Ore

DATE OF BURIAL Jan 29 1925
ADDRESS 34 Clay

20 UNDERTAKER Skerms Undertaking Co
in 2, Skerms

very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Louis (Lewis) Alexander Southworth

Louis (Lewis) Alexander Southworth (ca. 1830–1917)

Louis (Lewis) "Lou" Alexander Southworth was born July 4, 1830, in Tennessee. His father's name was Hunter, but since he was born into slavery his surname was that of his master, James Southworth.

In 1853, Louis and his mother, Pauline, immigrated to Oregon with James Southworth. In biographical accounts, Louis moved to Jacksonville and worked mining gold to earn money for buying his freedom.

Information also suggests he fought in the Rogue River Indian Wars in southern Oregon with Colonel John Kelsay's company of volunteers. The muster roll for Kelsay's Second Regiment does not include an entry for a Southworth, so it appears he wasn't formally mustered in as a member of the company. However, according to Charles H. Carey's *General History of Oregon*, Southworth was wounded during a skirmish in either March or April of 1856.

Louis moved to Yreka, California sometime around 1858, and made his livelihood playing the violin for local dancing schools, earning the \$1000 (\$27,000 in today's dollars) necessary to buy his freedom. After Louis bought his freedom, James Southworth circulated a petition in Lane County to protect "slave property." The petition made its way to the state legislature but it was not adopted and Louis was free from Southworth.

In 1868, Louis took up residence in Buena Vista, purchasing land and establishing a blacksmith shop and livery stable. He married Mary Cooper in 1873. Mary had adopted a boy, Alvin McCleary, who was born in San Francisco of Jamaican parents. Taking advantage of the Homestead Act which had no race restrictions, Louis and his family moved to a homestead near Waldport where Louis operated a scow, ferrying passengers and cargo across the Alsea River. During the summers Southworth worked near Philomath and Corvallis, helping with the hay and wheat harvests to earn money for winter supplies.

According a 1932 article in the *Oregon Journal*, stepson Alvin reminisced:

"Lou had a good rifle and was a crack shot. We always had plenty of deer, elk and bear meat and...There was plenty of salmon, trout, clams and crabs here; so we lived well."

Louis Southworth died June 23, 1917 in Corvallis, Oregon at the age of 86. He was survived by his second wife, Josephine Jackson, whom he married in 1913. His stepson, Alvin McCleary, continued to live and work in Lincoln County and eventually served as a city councilman in Waldport, Oregon.

1859 petition to protect property including slaves

(<https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/9975588>)

Louis Southworth from Oregon Encyclopedia

(https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/southworth_louis_1829_1917_/), by Peggy Baldwin, MLS.

Sources

Elizabeth McLagan, *A Peculiar Paradise: A History of Blacks in Oregon* (Portland: Georgian Press, 1980); George P. Rawick, ed., *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography*, supplement series 1, Arkansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri and Oregon and Washington Narratives (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1977), Vol. 2; Peggy Baldwin, "A Legacy Beyond the Generations," *Genealogical Forum of Oregon*, 2006; Oregon Marriage and Death Certificates at Oregon State Archives.



Louis Southworth sits by the fireplace in front of an image of Abraham Lincoln. Image courtesy Benton County Historical Society.
<https://bentoncountymuseum.catalogaccess.com/photos/77066>



Portrait of Lewis Southworth with his Beloved Fiddle courtesy Benton County Historical Society.
<https://bentoncountymuseum.catalogaccess.com/photos/66590>

AFFIDAVIT FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE.—For sale by E. M. WAITE, Printer, Salem.

STATE OF OREGON,

Mariu County, } ss.

John Warren being duly sworn, says that he is acquainted with *A. L. Southworth* and *Mary E. Cooper* applicants for a Marriage License; that he knows the former to be above the age of *21* years, and the latter to be above the age of *18* years; and that the said *Mary E. Cooper* *is a resident of* *Mariu* County ~~for the past six months.~~ Affiant further says that he knows of no legal impediment to their marriage.

John Warren
Subscribed and sworn to before me this *16th* day of
June A. D. 18*73*

D. W. Murphy Clerk.



The United States of America,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 2115

Application 4180

Whereas, There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Oregon City Oregon, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Lewis A. Southworth

has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the lots numbered five six seven and eight and the northeast quarter of the south west quarter of section twenty six in township thirteen south of range eleven west of Willamette Meridian in Oregon containing one hundred and sixty acres and sixty five hundredths of an acre

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General.

Now know ye that there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Lewis A. Southworth

the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Lewis A. Southworth and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietors of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom; should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law.

In testimony whereof, J. Grover Cleveland, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty six and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twelfth



By the President: Grover Cleveland

By M. M. Kean, Secretary.
S. W. Clark, Recorder of the General Land Office.

The 1917 death certificate of Louis Southworth.

PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified.
Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

50

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County of Benton
Township _____
or
Village _____
City or Corvallis (No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____)

State Index No. _____
Local Registered No. 31

2 FULL NAME Louis Southworth

[If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 Sex Male 4 Color or Race Negro 5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced Married
(Write the word)

6 Date of Birth July 4, 1830
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 Age 86 yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. If less than 1 day, _____ hrs. or _____ min.?

8 Occupation
(a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work Horseman
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____

9 Birthplace (State or country) unknown

10 Name of Father "

11 Birthplace of Father (State or country) "

12 Maiden Name of Mother "

13 Birthplace of Mother (State or country) "

14 The above is true to the best of my knowledge
(Informant) Mrs Southworth
(Address) Corvallis

15 Filed June 24, 1917 Registrar R. B. Smith

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 Date of Death June 23, 1917
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended the deceased from Jan, 1916, to June 23, 1917, that I last saw h.e. alive on June 21, 1917, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:

Uremia & Apnoea nephritica

(Duration) _____ yrs. 6 mos. _____ ds.

Contributory Smoking & or Arterio Sclerosis
(Secondary) (Duration) several yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.

(Signed) H. E. Perrot, M. D.

June 24, 1917 (Address) Corvallis, Or

*State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents)

At place of death _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. In the State _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.

Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? _____

Former or usual Residence _____

19 Place of Burial or Removal Crystal Lake, Or Date of Burial June 24, 1917

20 Undertaker W. S. Boor Address Corvallis,

Oregon Secretary of State

Maria and Johnson (No Surnames)

Although the Oregon Provisional and Territorial government had laws prohibiting slavery, they were not enforced and there were many legislative proposals designed to protect “slave” property in the territory.

The probate record of an early Polk County resident, Richard Linville, included this note:

“As it is my intention to live with my son Harrison Linville and he will probably be burdened with my property and myself in my declining years I hereby will and bequeath to him his heirs or legal representative, at my demise all right I may have in my two slaves called Maria and Johnson now in Oregon and I hereby revoke and alter any part of my forgoing will that may conflict with this codicil.”

The will and codicil were written prior to Oregon becoming a territory, so federal law later would have confirmed Linville’s right to possess slaves in Oregon based on the United States Supreme Court’s “Dred Scott Decision.”

Because of the lack of information, it is difficult to determine the exact identities of the two slaves mentioned in the will. The 1850 census entry in Polk County shows the Harrison Linville family with a William Johnson, age 11, in the household. There is no indication of race for William so it is difficult to determine if this is the Johnson mentioned in the will. A Maria Scott is also found in the 1850 Polk County census living in the household of Robin Holmes. Again there is no indication of race and there is evidence to point to this Maria being the widow of Scott, the “slave” who died in an accident while returning from California. Whether Maria Scott is the same Maria referred to in the Linville document remains unresolved.

In the name of God amen. I Richard
Linville late of Polk County State of Missouri and
now of the County of Polk Territory of Oregon. Consid-
ering the uncertainty of this mortal life, and being
of sound and disposing mind and memory, blessed
be Almighty God for the same, do make and
publish this as my last Will and Testament in
a manner and form following, to wit;

I give and bequeath to the several heirs of my body or
their descendant or legal representatives, an equal share of
all the money, goods, chattels, personal and real estate of which
I may be possessed at the time of my decease, to wit;

To my eldest daughter Rebecca Moad or her heirs one share.

To the heirs of my son John Linville deceased one share.

To my daughter Catharine Crowley or her heirs one share.

To my son Granville Linville or his heirs one share.

To my daughter Matilda Brown or her heirs one share.

To my daughter Nancy Tharp or her heirs one share.

To my son Harrison Linville or his heirs one share.

To my daughter Margaret Vanduspool or her heirs one share.

And I further will and bequeath that my son Harrison
Linville and my son in law Andrew Vanduspool and Jefe
Applegate, be and I do hereby them the Executors of this
my last will and Testament, and I do require them
my said Executors in all respects to manage my estate
and make partition thereof according to the laws of
the land, and I hereby revoke all former wills by me
made. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and
seal this twentieth day of January A.D. 1847.

signed sealed, published and declared
by the above named Richard Linville
to be his last will and Testament in
the presence of us who hereunto
subscribed our names as the presence
of the testator.

Levi Scott
James C. Robinson

Codicil. As it is my intention to live with my
Harrison Linville, and he will probably be concerned
with my property and myself in my declining years
herby will and bequeath to him his heirs or legal re-
presentatives, at my demise all right I may have in my la-
st slaves called Maria and Johnson now in Oregon and I
by revoke and after any part of my fore going will that
may conflict with this Codicil. In witness whereof
I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th of Feb
1847.

Richard Linville

Witness to the signing of
this Codicil.

Solomon Lethers

William Parker

Official web site of
Oregon Secretary of State

Monimia Travers

Monimia/Mommia Travers (ca. 1801–n.d.)

Monimia Travers was born in Virginia around 1801 and was brought to Fort Vancouver by Captain Llewellyn Jones prior to 1850. Captain Jones purchased Monimia from her previous owner, Isaac Burbayge in April of 1849, prior to the Jones' journey to the Oregon Territory. In a manumission (the act of a slave owner setting their slave free) document recorded in May 1851, Jones states he is giving her "... freedom unconditionally, and she is in all respects free to go and do as may seem to her most to her advantage, without let or hindrance from me, my agents, heirs or assigns."

In another document he states that Monimia "is an honest and perfectly conscientious woman and deserves kind and good treatment at the hands of every one."

Why Captain Jones "freed" her is not known but there is some speculation that Jones left the Oregon Territory "within days" of granting Monimia her freedom. Another possible reason was that a few months before Monimia was freed the *Oregon Spectator* published the laws passed by the Territorial Legislature that excluded Blacks and Mulattoes from coming to Oregon and indicated that the laws would be enforced. Whatever the reason, Monimia was granted her freedom.

What happened to her after this is unknown since she does not appear in any Oregon or Washington census records.

no. 1.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *Columbia Barracks* **in the County of** *Clark* **41**
Territory of Oregon **enumerated by me, on the** *6th* **day of** *Nov.* **1850.** *Joseph L. McK* **Asst. Marshal.**

| Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation. | Families numbered in the order of visitation. | The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family. | DESCRIPTION. | | | Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age. | Value of Real Estate owned. | PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country. | Married within the year. | Attended School within the year. | Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict. | |
|--|---|---|--------------|------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------|
| | | | Age. | Sex. | Color, or race. | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1 | 78 | Llewellyn Jones | 34 | M | | Capt. U.S.A. | | NY ✓ | | | | |
| 2 | | Katherine " | 35 | F | | | | " ✓ | | | | |
| 3 | | Katherine " jr | 14 | F | | | | " ✓ | | | | |
| 4 | | Adonia B. " | 11 | F | | | | " ✓ | | | | |
| 5 | | Monimia Travers | 44 | F | B | | | Pa ✓ | | | | |
| 6 | 79 | John Press | 38 | M | | Labourer | | Canada ✓ | | | | Convict |
| 7 | | | 8 | F | | | | M ✓ | | | | |

This 1850 U.S. Census enumeration sheet shows Monimia Travers on line 5.

George Washington Bush

George Washington Bush (1790–1863)

Born in Pennsylvania in 1790 to an African-American father from India and Irish-American mother, George Washington Bush became one of the earliest permanent settlers of Puget Sound in the Washington Territory. He was raised as a Quaker, educated in Philadelphia, a veteran of the War of 1812, and a former Hudson Bay Company fur trapper.

In 1844, Bush and his family, along with four white families, including his friend Michael Simmons, left Missouri and headed west on the Oregon Trail. Bush knew the western region from his days as a trapper, which made him a huge asset to the wagon party. By the time the party reached the Oregon Country, they found that the discriminatory laws had preceded them. The provisional government set up in the Oregon Territory had enacted legislation preventing Blacks from settling or owning land. As a result, Bush and his party traveled north across the Columbia River, into territory that was claimed by both the United States and Great Britain.



George Washington Bush

The Bushes and the other four families established a settlement named Bush Prairie. They farmed the land and built the area's first gristmill and sawmill and also assisted travelers settling in the Tacoma and Seattle areas.

When the United States' boundaries expanded to include Washington Territory with the Oregon Treaty of 1846, the laws denying settlement rights to Blacks also moved north. This meant that Bush could not claim the land his family had settled.

When the Washington Territory was formed in 1853, many of the new legislators knew and were friends with the Bush family. They voted unanimously for a resolution urging Congress to give the Bushes ownership of their land, which was granted in 1855. Bush was among the very first African-American landowners in Washington State. After his death in 1863 and his wife Isabella's in 1866, his children and their descendants continued his legacy of agriculture and public service.

Congress granted the Bushes ownership of their land in 1855. Transcript with image:
<https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/9975587>

George Washington Bush's 1850 Lewis County tax roll

| Names of Persons | Poll | Personal Property | Names of Forms | Block | Lot | Value | Total | School Tax | County Tax | Territorial Tax | Total amount |
|----------------------------|------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|-----|-------|----------|------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Almuthy Alexander | 1 | 18300 00 | — | — | — | — | 18300 00 | 36 60 | 46 75 | 9 15 | 9 |
| Andrew Decator | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 00 | — | — |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benoist Peter | 1 | 770 00 | — | — | — | — | 770 00 | 1 54 | 2 92 1/2 | 38 1/2 | — |
| Benoist Louis | — | 990 00 | — | — | — | — | 990 00 | 1 98 | 2 47 | 49 1/2 | — |
| Benoist Manville | 1 | 1800 00 | — | — | — | — | 1800 00 | 3 60 | 5 50 | 90 | — |
| Bouayac De La platt Pierre | 1 | 1632 00 | — | — | — | — | 1632 00 | 3 26 | 5 18 | 81 1/2 | — |
| Bouchard Christ | — | 1508 00 | — | — | — | — | 1508 00 | 3 07 1/2 | 3 76 1/2 | 75 | — |
| Bachon Isaac | 1 | 868 00 | — | — | — | — | 868 00 | 1 73 1/2 | 3 17 | 43 1/2 | — |
| Bell George | 1 | 340 00 | — | — | — | — | 340 00 | — 68 | 1 85 | 17 | — |
| Bush George | — | 2954 00 | — | — | — | — | 2954 00 | 5 90 | 7 38 1/2 | 1 47 1/2 | — |
| Blanchet George | 1 | 600 00 | — | — | — | — | 600 00 | 1 20 | 2 50 | 30 | — |
| Birney James | — | 13200 00 | — | — | — | — | 13200 00 | 26 40 | 33 00 | 6 60 | 6 |
| Burt Joseph | 1 | 1638 00 | — | — | — | — | 1638 00 | 3 31 1/2 | 5 10 1/2 | 83 | — |
| Bishop J C | 1 | 216 00 | — | — | — | — | 216 00 | — 44 | 1 54 | 11 | — |
| Buckley Luc | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 00 | — | — |
| Bills Miami | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 00 | — | — |
| Bachman George | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 00 | — | — |
| Bigelow Benjamin | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 00 | — | — |
| Bouchard Luc Baptiste | — | 300 00 | — | — | — | — | 300 00 | — 60 | 0 75 | 15 | — |
| Burbie Jonathan | — | 4977 00 | — | — | — | — | 4977 00 | 9 95 1/2 | 11 41 1/2 | 2 49 | 2 |
| Benoist Julien | — | 660 00 | — | — | — | — | 660 00 | 1 32 | 1 65 | 33 | — |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cottonier M Junr | 1 | 3700 00 | — | — | — | — | 3700 00 | 7 40 | 10 25 | 1 85 | — |
| Cottonier M Junr | — | 30 00 | — | — | — | — | 30 00 | 6 | 7 1/2 | 1 1/2 | — |

Rose and John Jackson

Rose came to Oregon in 1849, as a slave of Dr. William Allen. According to family lore, Allen knew about the Exclusion Laws, and decided not to bring Rose with them. However, Rose convinced the family to take her and travelled in a wooden box with ventilation holes, in order not to be seen. Rose was freed when they got to Oregon, but Dr. Allen died soon after they arrived. She is credited with helping the family survive the first winter by working as a laundress to bring in money.

Rose married John Jackson, who was a groom for stagecoach horses around Oregon City. They settled in Waldo Hills in Marion County and raised their two children.



John Jackson



Rose Jackson

Official web site of

Oregon Secretary of State

George Washington

George Washington (1817–1905)

George Washington was one of the early Black settlers in the Pacific Northwest who overcame prejudice and discrimination in order to play a crucial role in settling the Washington Territory.

Washington was born in Virginia in 1817. Soon after his birth, his father, a slave, was sold and his mother left him with a white couple, James and Anna Cochran, who raised him. As a small boy he lived in Ohio and Missouri. While living in Missouri, the Cochrans petitioned the state on George's behalf and he was given full rights as a citizen, except for the right to vote.

In 1850, George and the Cochrans moved to the Oregon Territory. They first settled in Oregon City, but because of the laws prohibiting Blacks from settling in Oregon and owning land, they decided to cross the Columbia River to the Northern Oregon Territory. The Cochrans purchased land under their name, near the confluence of the Chehalis and Skookumchuck Rivers. A petition was mounted by the citizens in the area to allow George Washington to remain in the territory. When the Washington Territory was created in 1853, the new territory's statutes did not prohibit Blacks from owning land. George purchased the Cochran's land and additional property, which he both farmed and logged. In the early 1870s, the Northern Pacific Railroad was built through his land.

At some point, George married local widow Mary Jane Cooness. He was a prominent member of the community and founded the town of Centerville in 1875 (the name was changed to Centralia in 1883). George Washington died in 1905 at the age of 88, and is remembered as a leading African American pioneer of the Pacific Northwest.

[View George Washington's petition to continue residing in Oregon, including transcript \(https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/RecordView/9975584\).](https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/RecordView/9975584)



Tom Davis

Tom Davis (1838–1930)

In 1853, Tom Davis was brought to Oregon from Missouri as “chattel” by the widow Aravilla Waldo. According to accounts of his life, his grandmother died on the trail to Oregon and a sister named Susan died “later” in Salem. No record of his sister can be found, and records for Tom cannot be found for this early time period.

Tom first appears in the 1870 census, but his race is listed as white. The subsequent censuses, from 1880-1930, do list his race as Black. In most of these records it also indicates that he is able to read and write. Since it was generally illegal for slaves to be taught these skills, one is left to assume these are skills he may have acquired after coming to Oregon. He worked as a cook in a number of capacities, from working in the dining car for the railroad to working for a private family. In 1907, Tom purchased a lot in Vancouver and built a small home. At the time of his death in 1930, his property was valued at \$2,500. Tom Davis is buried in the Park Hill Cemetery in Vancouver, Washington.



Tom Davis came to Oregon in 1853 as chattel.

Allen Ervin Flowers

Allen Ervin Flowers (1847–1934)

Allen Ervin Flowers was born in Columbus, Ohio on March 20, 1847. Flowers came to Portland in 1865 and was one of the very few Blacks to own land in early Portland. He purchased acreage near Mt. Scott where he raised horses and raspberries. Flowers also owned land in northeast Portland in the vicinity of the present day Toyota of Portland car dealership. He became Portland's first Black developer when he constructed a road on NE Schuyler so that his wife, Louisa Matilda (Thacker), could wheel her baby buggy to Union Avenue, which was the only through street to the river at that time.

Flowers died of a heart attack in the family home at 1815 NE First Avenue in Portland on August 18, 1934 at the age of 87. His son Ervin Milton Flowers was listed as the informant on his death certificate. Allen Ervin Flowers was laid to rest at Lincoln Memorial Park on August 21, 1934.

History of Portland's African American Community, 1805-1993

(<https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/Record/2653672/>) publication produced by the City of Portland Planning Bureau.

The Oregon death certificate for Allen Flowers.

73c

Oregon State Board of Health Certificate of Death

2244

1. PLACE OF DEATH State Registered No.

County Multnomah State Oregon Local Registered No. 2307

Township or Village or

City Portland No. 1815 N.E. First Avenue St., Ward

(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street number)

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 68 yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

2. FULL NAME ALLEN E. FLOWERS

(a) Residence: No. 1815 N.E. First Ave. St.,
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident, give city or town and state)

| PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS | | | | MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 3. SEX <u>Male</u> | 4. COLOR OR RACE <u>Colored</u> | 5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (Write the word) <u>Widowed</u> | | 21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Aug. 18</u> , 19 <u>34</u> | |
| 5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of <u>the late Louise M. Flowers</u> (or) WIFE of | | | | 22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 19 <u>31</u> , to <u>Aug. 18</u> , 19 <u>34</u> , that I last saw him alive on <u>Aug. 18</u> , 19 <u>34</u> , death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>8:20 P.m.</u> The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows: <u>Acute dilatation heart</u> <u>Chronic myocarditis</u> <u>Senility</u> | |
| 6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) <u>March 20, 1847</u> | | | | Date of onset <u>8.18.34</u> | |
| 7. AGE Years Months Days If less than 1 day, hrs. or min. <u>87</u> <u>4</u> <u>28</u> | | | | | |
| OCCUPATION | 8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>Retired</u> | | | Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause: | |
| | 9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc. | | | | |
| | 10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation | | | | |
| 12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Columbus</u> (State or country) <u>Ohio</u> | | | | Name of operation Date of What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>clin.</u> Was there an autopsy? <u>no</u> | |
| FATHER | 13. NAME <u>Unknown</u> | | | 23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? <u>no</u> Date of injury 19..... Where did injury occur? <u>nowhere</u> (Specify city or town, county, and state) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place. | |
| | 14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (state or country) <u>Unknown</u> | | | Manner of injury Nature of injury | |
| MOTHER | 15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Unknown</u> | | | 24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? <u>no</u> If so, specify | |
| | 16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (state or country) <u>Unknown</u> | | | (Signed) <u>D. Howard Hartman</u> , M. D. (Address) <u>6. S.W. 6th Ave.</u> | |
| 17. INFORMANT <u>Ervin Flowers</u> (address) <u>1815 N.E. First Avenue</u> | | | | | |
| 18. BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL <u>Burial</u> Place <u>Lincoln Mem. Pk.</u> Date <u>Aug. 21</u> , 19 <u>34</u> | | | | | |
| 19. UNDERTAKER <u>Holman and Lutz, Inc.</u> (Address) <u>E. 14 & Sandy Blvd</u> | | | | | |
| 20. Filed 19..... Registrar | | | | | |

AUG 20 1934

Morris Thomas and Jane Snowden

Morris Thomas (dates unknown); Jane Snowden (1815–n.d.)

Morris Thomas was born in New York (date unknown) and is the subject of an 1854 petition, signed by 128 citizens, asking that he and his family be allowed to remain in Oregon despite the law excluding "Negros and mulattos" from residing in the Territory.

Morris does not appear in any census records for Oregon. However, he married Mrs. Jane Snowden in Multnomah County in 1851. She was born in 1815 in Missouri and is found in the 1850 census living in Andrew Skidmore's household. One account indicates that Jane returned to Missouri in 1852 to purchase a son, Billy, and bring him to Oregon. A journal entry in the early Washington County records indicates that Jane recorded the purchase of her son for \$500 (\$15,742 in today's dollars) from David Snowden. The recording of this fact was intended to provide proof that he was no longer a slave.

The bulk of evidence for Morris Thomas is found in newspaper advertisements that ran for his barbershop and a bath house in the 1850s. Neither he nor his wife appear in the 1860 census for Oregon and Jane's son was reported to have died in Oregon in 1857.



Morris Thomas ran a barbershop in the 1850s.

Newspaper advertisement for Morris Thomas,
Barber and Hairdresser.

| Morris Thomas, BARBER AND HAIR DRESSER, Main st., nearly opposite Holmes & Co.'s. | |
|--|--------|
| TERMS OF SHAVING, &C. | |
| Shaving twice a week, one shampoo, hair trimmed once, per month, | \$2 00 |
| “ once a week, one shampoo, hair trimmed once, per month, | 1 25 |
| Hair trimmed, | 25 |
| Hair cut and dressed, | 50 |
| Shaving, and hair dressed, | 25 |
| Shampooing, | 50 |
| Oregon City, April 5, 1856-51 | |

An 1854 bill in the Oregon Territory Legislative Assembly to allow Morris Thomas to stay in Oregon despite the 1849 Exclusionary Act. The bill was "postponed indefinitely."

6024

Bill,

For the relief of Morris Thomas,
a free man of color of the City of Portland,
Washington County Oregon Territory.

Sec 1

Be it enacted by the Legislative
Assembly, of the Territory of Oregon,
That Morris Thomas a free man
of color and all and singular the
members of his family, be exempted
from the operation of the act of the
Legislative Assembly, passed Sept-
ember 26th 1849, and entitled an act,
to prevent Negroes and Mullattas from
coming to or residing in Oregon Territory.

Sec 2

This Act to take effect from
and after its passage

Abner Hunt Francis

Abner Hunt Francis (circa 1812–1872)

In September of 1851, anti-slavery activist and successful businessman Abner Hunt Francis and his brother O. B. Francis were unsuccessfully targeted for expulsion under Oregon's 1849 Exclusion Law. A petition drive was mounted by citizens of the Oregon Territory to allow an exemption for the family. Over 200 individuals signed the petition, which was presented to the Legislature and received a vigorous debate before being tabled.

Francis was born in New Jersey and was active in social and political initiatives to improve the lives of Blacks. Prior to immigrating to Oregon in 1851, he and his family lived in Buffalo, New York where he was a colleague of Black abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Abner wrote about his experience with Oregon's attitudes toward Blacks in an article that appeared in Douglass' newspaper on December 11, 1851:

Even in the so-called free territory of Oregon, the colored American citizen, though he may possess all the qualities and qualifications which make a man a good citizen, is driven out like a beast in the forest, made to sacrifice every interest dear to him, and forbidden the privilege to take the portion of the soil which the government says every citizen shall enjoy.

While in Portland Francis owned and operated a successful mercantile business at the corner of Front and Stark Streets. By 1860, Francis had amassed real estate and personal property estimated at \$36,000 (equivalent to around \$1 million today). In 1862, Abner and his wife Sydna Edmonia Robella Dandridge moved to British Columbia, along with 700 other Blacks who went to Vancouver Island at the invitation of Governor James Douglas. Abner was the first Black person elected to the city council of Victoria in 1865. He died in Canada in 1872.



An old building on Front Street (now Naito Parkway) in Portland near the location of the mercantile business

Francis operated. (**Oregon Scenic Images collection**

(<https://www.northwestdigitalheritage.org/s/oregon-state-archives/item/27594#lg=1&slide=0>))

First page of petition to allow Francis to stay in Oregon with transcript

(<https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/9975586>)

Ellender Penelope "Nellie" Mathews

Ellender Penelope “Nellie” Mathews (1799–1882)

Nellie was reportedly born on the Mask Plantation, North Carolina in 1799, the child of a young slave and her owner, Dudley Mask. It is assumed that Nellie worked as a domestic on the plantation as a young woman. She bore five children in North Carolina. The three oldest children are recorded as the offspring of her owner, and father, Dudley Byron Mask. Some records indicate that her younger children, Drury and Mary Ann’s father was actually Drury Matthis who resided on a nearby plantation. Because marriage with slaves was illegal, and in most cases marriage between free persons of different races was also illegal, marriage records to confirm this information do not exist.

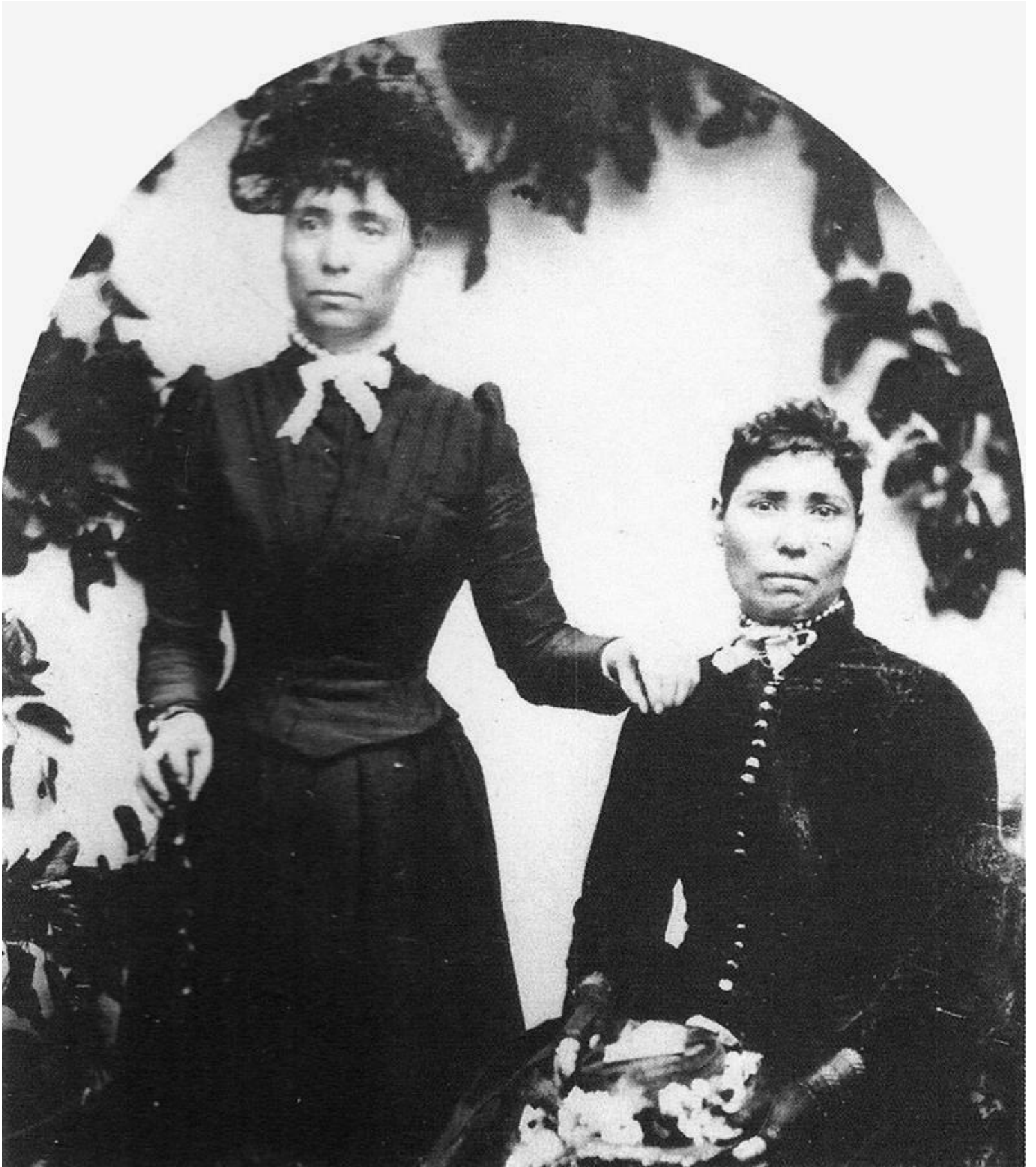
Accounts indicate that Nellie and her children were freed when Dudley Mask died in 1830. An 1830 census record listing free colored persons shows Eleander (sic) Matthis, a female between the age 24 and 35, and two females under the age of 10 in her household. North Carolina prohibited freed slaves from remaining in the state for more than 90 days, so the family appears to have moved to Tennessee. Sometime in the 1840’s, they moved to Missouri and in her mid-fifties, Nellie undertook the long migration to Oregon with her extended family.

Nellie is listed in the census from 1850 to 1880 as living in the household of her oldest son John. Her race is indicated as “M” for Mulatto in most census entries except 1860 when she is listed as “Black”. She died in 1882 and is buried in the John Mathews Pioneer Cemetery in Eagle Point, Oregon. The actor Ty Burrell is a descendant of Nellie and a 2016 segment of PBS’s “Finding Your Roots” featured the relationship and the stories passed down through his family about this slave ancestor.

Nellie’s Children

- 1) John Mathews (1816-1885)
- 2) Dudley Mathews (1821-1847)
- 3) Susanna Mathews (1823-1909)
- 4) Drury Mathews (1826-1905)
- 5) Mary Ann/Amanda Mathews (1828-1905)
- 6) William (1836-n.d.) was born in Tennessee but his father is not listed.

Ellender seated with her daughter, Susan



Official web site of
Oregon Secretary of State

John Dudley Mathews

John Dudley Mathews (1816–1885)

John, the firstborn child of Ellender Penelope Mathews, was born on March 2, 1816 in Montgomery County, North Carolina. According to some family histories, he was taught to read and write by his father and slave owner, Byron Dudley Mask, despite the fact that teaching slaves these skills was specifically prohibited by law in North Carolina. John does not appear to be listed with his mother in the 1830 census and the assumption is that he and his brother may have been living elsewhere. Sometime after the family was granted their freedom in 1830, he moved to Tennessee. In October of 1837, he married Eliza Rachel Wooley. Although the records are inconsistent, it would appear that Eliza was white and they had 15 children:

William C. Mathews (1838–1875)

Drucilla Mathews (1840–1920); married Samuel Turman and second husband, William Brown
Milla/Millie (1842–1856)

Dudley K Polk Mathews (1844–1906); married Mary Aseneth Geary

America H Mathews (1846–1938); married James Spear and second husband, Maurice Fitzgerald
Rutha Mathews (1849–1863)

Hezekiah “Ki” Mathews (1850–1920); married Elizabeth Ann “Lucy” Johnson

Juda/Julia Rachel Mathews (1851–1917); married David W. Mayham

Mary Ellen Mathews (1854–1934); married Andrew McNeil and second husband, Zera Dahack

Elizabeth Jane Mathews (1856–1873); married Charles Wilson

Martha Maria Mathews (1858–1902); married John Allen and second husband, Eli Dahack

Green Banks Mathews (1861–1943); married Ida May Dahack

Infant girl Mathews, (1863–1863)

Lot Minerva (1869–1873)

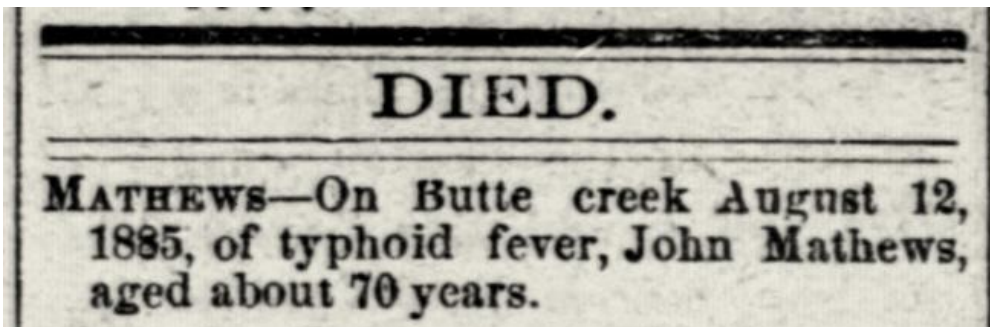
Champion Grant Mathews (1870–1953); married Martha Ada Wolary



John Dudley Mathews stands with a flute.



John Dudley Mathews



The obituary for John Dudley Mathews.

| Census Roll | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----|-----|------|--------|
| No | Names of Persons | Age | Sex | Male | Female |
| | | | | 56 | 19 |
| 67 | Metcalf B.R. | 28 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 68 | " G. D. | 30 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 69 | Monroe R.B. | 28 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 70 | " Mrs. Amanda W. | 16 | " | " | 1 |
| 71 | Meginson William | 23 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 72 | Mordy Alexander | 33 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 73 | " Thomas | 26 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 74 | Morrison W.J. | 27 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 75 | Matthews John | 36 | " | 1 | " |
| 76 | " Mulattoes " | 55 | " | " | 1 |
| 77 | | 17 | " | 1 | " |
| 78 | | 15 | " | " | 1 |
| 79 | | 12 | " | " | 1 |
| 80 | | 9 | " | 1 | " |
| 81 | | 8 | " | " | 1 |
| 82 | | 6 | " | " | 1 |
| 83 | | 4 | " | 1 | " |
| 84 | " Rachel | 3 | " | " | 1 |
| 85 | Moring Samuel | 46 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 86 | Mosher Lafayette | 30 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 87 | Miller Greenbury | 28 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 88 | " Caroline | 21 | " | " | 1 |
| 89 | " Peter | 38 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 90 | Murray Thomas | 29 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 91 | " William | 25 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 92 | Mount Jesse D. | 26 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 93 | Manville George W. | 24 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 94 | Morse Carlton A. | 30 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 95 | " Caroline | 25 | " | " | 1 |
| 96 | Miller Isaac | 23 | 1 | 1 | " |
| 97 | Meads Mary | 11 | " | " | 1 |
| 98 | " Hamilton | 8 | " | 1 | " |
| 99 | Morrison S.B. | 26 | 1 | 1 | " |
| | | | 54 | 70 | 29 |

Susan/Susanna "Sucky" Mathews

Susan/Susanna "Sucky" Mathews (1823–1909)

Susan/Susanna "Sucky" Mathews was born on April 2, 1823 in Montgomery County, North Carolina. As a young girl, Susan was said to have worked for a widower named Lewis Johnson. A family history states she was married by age 15 and had several children by Johnson. They apparently moved together from North Carolina to Tennessee and onto Missouri.

When Susan moved to Oregon with her extended family, Mr. Johnson did not accompany her. Upon arriving in Jackson County, Susan and her sister Amanda became part of the booming mining community in the Jacksonville area. Susan had a daughter in 1854, whose father is listed as French, and two more children were born before she “married” George Weeks. She had several children by this relationship. In the 1880 census Susan is listed as divorced. No marriage or divorce records can be found. Susan had 12 children in all and they were:

Jane Delaney Johnson (1840–1928); married Andrew McNeil and second husband, Foster

Maranda Ann Johnson (1843–1873); married Lewis Geary

Mary/Missouri Ann Johnson (1846–1884); married Ferdinand Peterson

William Ruben Johnson (1849–1933)

Francis L. Johnson (1850–n.d.); married Caroline Dresler

Priscilla Eleanor (French) (1854-1941); married John McDaniel

Thomas Jefferson (Johnson) (1856–1917)

Elizabeth Ann "Lucy" (Johnson) (1858-1928); married Hezekiah Mathews and second husband Thomas J. Conover

Acey "Ace" Charles Weeks (1863–1944)

Grant E. "Guy" Weeks (1865–n.d.)

George Washington Weeks (1865–1944); married Eva

James David Weeks (1868–1907)

Susan died on December 13, 1909 in Jackson County, Oregon.



Susan/Susanna "Sucky" Mathews

The 1858 Jackson County tax roll showing Susan Johnson.

| Names of Persons | Description of Sands Lots | Sec | Town | Range | Acres | No. of Real Estate | Valuation of Improvements | Valuation of Personal Property | Total valuation |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Holman J. J. Herbert John Hill Isaac Hoffman & Jarvis Raymond Benjamin | 1400 1401 1402 1403 1404 | 1401 1401 1401 1401 1401 | 1401 1401 1401 1401 1401 | 1401 1401 1401 1401 1401 | 1650 1000 640 1280 640 | 1050 1000 1280 1280 1280 | 300 700 2000 | 690 700 | 1650 1000 2270 700 3280 |
| Isaac S. H. | Claim | 70 | 23 | 1782 1/4 | 320 | 1000 | 1500 | 11,000 | 17,100 |
| Johnson Miss Susan Jordan Robert S. Johnson Archibald L. Justus William Jacobs Orange Jenkerson Ch. F. Jaquette William Jewett A. J. Jewett Thomas Jones James | 1405 1406 1407 1408 1409 1410 1411 1412 1413 1414 | 1405 1406 1407 1408 1409 1410 1411 1412 1413 1414 | 1405 1406 1407 1408 1409 1410 1411 1412 1413 1414 | 1405 1406 1407 1408 1409 1410 1411 1412 1413 1414 | 260 900 310 300 1100 950 325 1000 100 480 | 260 900 310 2535 1100 950 325 1000 100 480 | 260 900 310 2535 1100 950 325 1000 100 480 | 260 900 310 3035 1100 950 325 1275 100 480 | |
| | Total | 6,810 | 5,300 | 24,375 | 30485 | | | | |

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

DATE OF DEATH.

County of Jackson State OreRegistered No. 5650

OR

City of

No. 10th W. of Layton St.

(If in country, distance and direction from city.)

Street.

If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution give its NAME instead of street and number.]

[If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information."]

FULL NAME Susanah W. Weeks

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Sex <u>Female</u> | Color <u>White</u> |
| Date of Birth <u>April 2nd 1823</u> | |
| Age <u>86</u> years, <u>8</u> months, <u>11</u> days. | |
| Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced <u>Married</u> | |
| Birthplace <u>Montgomery Co. N.C.</u> | |
| Name of Father <u>Mathias</u> | |
| Birthplace of Father <u>N.C.</u> | |
| Maiden Name of Mother <u>Hellen Mark</u> | |
| Birthplace of Mother <u>N.C.</u> | |
| Occupation <u>Housewife</u> | |

The above stated personal particulars are true to the best of my knowledge and belief

(Informant) W. R. Johnson
(Address) Trail Oregon

Filed

190

Registrar.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

Date of Death December 13, 1909
Month Day YearI HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Dec. 9, 1909, to Dec. 13, 1909 that I last saw h. alive on Dec 9, 1909 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 14h 6.25 pm.
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:Paralysis(DURATION) about 11 daysContributory (DURATION) about 11 days(Signed) W. R. Johnson M. D.
Dec. 15 1909 (Address) Central Point

SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents.

Former or Usual Residence Aspetuck How long at 2 years Place of Death? DaysWhere was disease contracted if not at place of death? Lindford OrePlace of Burial or Removal Aspetuck Ore Date of Burial Dec 17 1909Undertaker W. B. Zimmerman Address

Drury Mathews

Drury Mathews (1826–1905)

Drury Mathews was born April 28, 1826 in Montgomery Co., North Carolina. He married Mary Catherine “Jenny” Martel in Marion County about 1863, but no record of the marriage can be found in either the early Marion County records or the transcribed Catholic Church records of the time. Mary was the daughter of former Hudson Bay Company employee, Octave Martel, and a native woman, Marie, from the Okanogan tribe. Drury is listed in the 1865 Marion County census, but around 1872, the family moved to the Cowlitz Prairie in Lewis County, Washington Territory. That particular area had a large number of mixed race families. Drury and Mary had 12 children:

Alice Mathews (1864–1933); married Joseph Russell and second husband, Samuel William Layton

Alfred Mathews (1866–1929); married Rhoda Viola Pratt

Josephine Mathews (1867–1960); married Frank Muratt Rumsey

George W. Mathews (1869–1949); married Mary Virginia “Jennie” Mills

Mary Jane Mathews (1870–1904); married Samuel W Layton

John Mathews (1872–1929)

William Mathews (1873–1925; married Allie Pratt and second wife, Virginia “Jennie” Labriere

Joseph Charles Mathews (1875–1972)

Christina Marselina Mathews (1876–1953); married John Welcome Cheney

Henry Mathews (1878–1952); married Mary Ann Wapato

Emma Amy Mathews (1881–1947); married Benjamin Elijah Smallwood

Augustus Louis Mathews (1884–1955)



Drury and Mary Martel Mathews.

[illegible]

Official web site of

Oregon Secretary of State

Mary Ann "Amanda" Mathews

Mary Ann "Amanda" Mathews (1828–1905)

Mary Ann "Amanda" Mathews was born in April, 1828 in Montgomery County, North Carolina. She appears in United States Census records from 1850 to 1900, and her race is consistently listed as “mulatto”. However, in the 1900 census, she is listed as white and her death certificate lists her race as white as well.

"Amanda" married Charles Griffith in Jackson County on March 30, 1858. A daughter, Susan, may have been the offspring of a previous relationship because in the 1870 census, Susan is listed in the Griffith household as a “half-sibling,” but her death certificate lists Charles Griffith as her father.

Their children were:

Susan Caroline Griffith (1856-1929); married Marvin S. Wood and second husband, John E. Hart

Etha Sarah M. Griffith (1866–1895)

Orlando Griffith (1870–1958).

Mary Ann “Amanda” Matthews Griffith died on March 3, 1905, in Jackson County, Oregon.



Mary Ann "Amanda" Mathews



Susan Caroline Griffith

Letitia Carson

Letitia Carson (circa 1815–1888)

Letitia came to Oregon as a slave or former slave in 1845 with David Carson. She gave birth to a daughter, Martha, while travelling to Oregon. Soon after arriving in Oregon, the family settled into a cabin they built on a 640-acre land claim. A son, Adam, was born in 1849. The next year officials reduced Carson's claim to 320 acres, most likely because David and Letitia were not married. The Donation Land Act provided 640 acres for married couples only.

David Carson died in Benton County in 1852, and in February 1854, Letitia filed suit against the executor of the estate. According to her filing, David had promised that if she would live and work for him during the remainder of his life "he would make me his sole heir or that he would give me his entire property" upon his death. However, this was not put in writing. Letitia went to court seeking \$7,450 for seven years of work, plus the value of livestock and other property to which she claimed she was entitled.

According to Oregon's exclusionary laws, Black immigrants were not allowed to own land, file suit, or even reside within the Territory's boundaries for more than six months. Yet Letitia sued David's estate twice in a Benton County court in an effort to recover an equitable portion of their property for herself and her children. On May 12, 1855, a jury of Letitia Carson's former Benton County peers (all white males) determined that Letitia was due \$300 for her services to David Carson and another \$229.50 to cover court costs and legal fees. Sixteen months later, on October 25, 1856, a federal judge and local jury awarded her an additional \$1399.75, including \$199.75 for costs and fees, for the unlawful sale of her cattle.

Sometime after the settlement of the suit, Letitia and her children moved to Douglas County. For many years she reportedly made her home with the Hardy Elliff family in the upper Cow Creek Valley, where she worked for the Elliff family and also served as the community midwife.



Letitia Carson filed a land claim on South Myrtle Creek in Douglas County. Shown above is the Neal Lane Bridge over South Myrtle Creek. (**Oregon**

Scenic Images collection

(<https://www.northwestdigitalheritage.org/s/oregon-state-archives/item/31234#lg=1&slide=0>)

In May 1862, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act into law. That law did not bar, by race, who could be homesteaders. On June 17, 1863, Letitia Carson filed a claim for 160 acres on South Myrtle Creek in Douglas County, Oregon. She filed as a "widow" and single mother of two children. Although the Act included "freed slaves," Letitia didn't identify herself as such. On October 1, 1869, Letitia Carson's claim was certified by President Ulysses S. Grant, making her the only Black woman in Oregon to successfully secure a claim. Letitia's ranch included a two-story house, barn, smokehouse, cattle, pigs, and an orchard of over 100 fruit trees. The 1870 census lists her real estate worth \$1,000, and personal property as \$625.

Letitia Carson died February 2, 1888 and was buried a few miles from her homesteaded property at The Stephens Cemetery in Myrtle Creek. *A Light in the Wilderness*, a historical novel written by Jane Kirkpatrick in 2014 and based on the facts of Letitia Carson's life, was published.

Letitia Carson's Homestead certificate.

HOMESTEAD.

Land Office at *Roseburg, Ore*
June 19th — 1868.

CERTIFICATE, }
No. 14. }

{ APPLICATION,
 No. 113.

It is hereby certified, That pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress, approved May 20, 1862, entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain,"

Letitia Carson _____ has
made payment in full for *W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & Tract E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$* _____ of
Section *20* _____ in Township *29 South* _____
of Range *3 West* _____ containing *153 $\frac{98}{100}$* _____ acres.

Now, therefore, be it known, That on presentation of this Certificate to the
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, the said *Letitia Carson*
_____ shall be entitled to a Patent for the Tract of Land above described.

John Kelly
Register.

18

17

16

19

20

21

IST. NAT'L. BANK OF PORTLAND

ROY E. BOWERS

IST. NAT'L. BK. OF PORT.

U.S.

ALEX. EBEL

ARCHIE V. ADY

W.L. FISHER

GRETCHEN LINDEMANN

U.S.

CHIEFTON MINES INC.

J.W. FARLEIGH

A.V. ADY

E.M. MASTERS

W. FISHER

CRAIG

J.R. HALL

U.S.

TRAVELERS INS. CO.

26.24

26.52

26.80

29.04

33.98

A.V. ADY

NUGGET

Myrtle

3. South

T. CRAIG

D.L.C.

V.L. BUSH

J.R. HALL

A.V. ADY

34.49

39.04

39.05

39.22

39.13

J.R. HALL

EDITH R. VANDERPOOL

U.S.

COUNTY

gett Sch. Dist. 57.

To Greubury Smith
Administrator of David Carson
deceased

Sir

I take notice that I
shall present to the Probate Court
in ~~for~~ ^{the} County of Benton appointed
to be held ^{in the County of Benton} on the second Monday
of March next for allowance the
damages which I have sustained
in consequence of the non performance
of the following ^{verbal} Contract made &
Entered into by & between the said
David Carson during his lifetime
and myself and also the un-
executed account, which said Contract
is in substance as follows, and
said account in the words and
figures following to wit:

Sometime in the months of May
or June in the Year A.D. 1845 David
Carson, deceased while on his road
from ^{the State of} Missouri to the territory of
Oregon and after he had passed
the state line of the said State of
Missouri stipulated & agreed to
& with me that in consideration
that I would live with & work
for the said David Carson for
and during the term of his
natural life that at his decease
he would make me his sole heir
or that he would give me his
entire property which he should
own or be possessed of at the time
of his said decease. That in

pursuance of said contract I continued
to live with & work for the said David
until the time of his decease, but
the said David not regarding his
said contract neglected to make
me heir to his entire property or to
give me the same or any part
thereof either by will or otherwise
wherefore I have sustained
great damage to wit five thousand
dollars, which I shall ask, and
insist that the same be allowed
at said term of court,

| | |
|--|------------|
| damages on contract | \$5,000.00 |
| To 24 ^{6 months} years labor at \$200.00 per year | 4,800.00 |
| " 29 head of cattle at \$5.00 per head | 1,450.00 |
| " The use of 10 cows 7 years | 1,000.00 |

When & where you may attend if more
think proper

Given under my hand this 27th
day of February AD 1854

Leontine Carson
for A J Thayer

Leontine Carson
A/pt

Filed
March 13th 1854

Leontine Carson
vs
Granbury Smith
Administrator of
David Carson deceased

Notice
Served on Granbury
Smith by reading and
copying to
Verdug 1.00
Mileage 2.00
Served Jan 28th 1854

Martha Jane Carson

Martha Jane Carson (1845–1911)

Some census records indicate that Martha Jane Carson was born in the Rocky Mountains in 1845 during her parents (David and Letitia Carson) trip from Missouri to Oregon. After her father's death, she, her mother, and younger brother moved to Douglas County. On November 26, 1864, Martha bore a daughter, Mary Alice. Mary Alice is listed with the surname Bingham in numerous records and it is believed that she was the daughter of Solomon Bingham who also lived in Douglas County during this time.

On January 19, 1868, Martha married Narcisse Lavadour, who was the son of retired Hudson Bay employee, Joseph Lavadour and a Native American woman, Lisette, of the Walla Walla tribe. Martha and Narcisse continued to live in Douglas County until 1886 when they moved to the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Narcisse took an allotment of land on the reservation. Narcisse and Martha had ten children:

Agnes (1870–1941); married Frank Morrisette in 1892

Ira (1872–n.d.)

Ada (1873–n.d.); married Robert Adams in 1892

Albert (1875–n.d.)

Ida Ethel (1877–n.d.); married McGinnis

Fred (1879–n.d.)

Millie (1883–n.d.); married Lewis

Nelson (1886–n.d.)

Grace (1888–n.d.)

Thomas (1890–n.d.)

Although Narcisse and the children are mentioned on the reservation census schedules, Martha does not appear consistently and there is no indication of her race. Narcisse died in 1893 and Martha married Charles Carpenter in 1894. She divorced him in 1910. Martha died in 1911 and is buried in the Athena Cemetery in Umatilla County.

Martha's eldest daughter, Mary Alice whose father was Solomon Bingham, married Narcisse's younger brother, Joseph Armand Lavadour in 1884, in Douglas County. This marriage made Mary and Martha sisters-in-law as well as mother and daughter. Mary Alice and Joseph also moved to the Umatilla Reservation in 1886 and can be found on census records through 1940. She is listed in all these censuses as "Indian." Mary Alice died May 16, 1942 and is buried in the Athena Cemetery.



Narcisse Lavadour, Martha and son

Martha Carpenter's 1911 death certificate.

CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, that it may be properly classified. The "Special Information" for persons dying away from home should be given in every instance.

| PLACE OF DEATH | | OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH | |
|---|--|--|--|
| BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS | | CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
| County of <u>Adams</u> | Registered No. <u>2061</u> | [If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution give its NAME instead of street and number.] | |
| Village of <u>Adams</u> | St. <u> </u> Ward <u> </u> | | |
| City of <u> </u> | | | |
| [If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information"] | | FULL NAME <u>Martha J. Carpenter</u> | |
| PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS | | MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
| SEX <u>Female</u> | COLOR <u>Mixed Blood</u> | DATE OF DEATH <u>7 - 17 1911</u> (Month) (Day) (Year) | |
| DATE OF BIRTH <u>6 9 1845</u> (Month) (Day) (Year) | AGE <u>66 years, 1 months, 8 days</u> | I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Feb 11, 1910</u> to <u>July 15 1911</u> that I last saw <u>her</u> alive on <u>July 15 1911</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>1215</u> <u>P</u> . M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: | |
| SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>Married</u> | BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Nebraska</u> | <u>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u> | |
| NAME OF FATHER <u>David Carson</u> | BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Unknown</u> | <u>Sick for</u> (duration) <u> </u> days Contributory <u>seen</u> when <u> </u> | |
| MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Unknown</u> | BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Missouri</u> | (Signed) <u>J. M. McKinney</u> M. D. <u>July 21 1911</u> (Address) <u>Applix</u> | |
| OCCUPATION <u>House Wife</u> | SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents. | | |
| THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF | | Former or Usual Residence <u> </u> How long at Place of Death? <u> </u> Days | |
| (Informant) <u>Willie Lewis</u> | Where was disease contracted if not at Place of death? <u> </u> | | |
| (Address) <u>Thief Cove</u> | PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Athens</u> | DATE OF BURIAL <u>July 18 1911</u> | |
| Filed <u> </u> | UNDERTAKER <u>U. A. Miller</u> | ADDRESS <u>Athens</u> | |
| <u>19</u> | Registrar. <u> </u> | | |

Official web site of

Oregon Secretary of State

Adam "Andrew Jackson" Carson

Adam "Andrew Jackson" Carson (1849–1922)

Adam “Andrew Jackson” Carson was the son of David and Letitia Carson, and born in Benton County, OR. There is some inconsistency in Adam’s name as it appears as “Andrew J” in some records and he appears to have gone by “Jack” in his adult life. He moved to Douglas County with his mother and sister sometime before 1860 and is listed as living with his mother in the 1870 census. He continued to live in Douglas County until his death in 1922, but he is not found in the census again until 1910.

Jack farmed in the Canyonville area and is referred to as being very well known for his skill as horse trainer. He never married and the informant on his death certificate is his niece. The certificate lists his father as white from “a southern state” and his mother is entered as “full blood Negro.” His probate files listed real property valued at \$1,500 and personal property at \$250. “Jack” is buried in the Stephens Cemetery in Myrtle Creek, next to his mother.

The death certificate for Adam "Andrew Jackson" Carson.

| 1 PLACE OF DEATH | | OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH | |
|---|--|--|--|
| County of <u>Douglas</u> | | BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS | |
| Township <u>Canyonville</u> | | STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
| Village <u>Canyonville</u> | | State Index No. <u>164</u> | |
| City <u>(Andrew)</u> | | Local Registered No. <u>154</u> | |
| 2 FULL NAME <u>A.C. CARSON</u> | | [If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.] | |
| PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS | | MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
| 3 Sex <u>Male</u> | 4 Color or Race <u>White and Negro</u> | 5 Single <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 Date of Death <u>Sept 14</u> , 19 <u>22</u> |
| 6 Date of Birth <u>Sept 15</u> , 18 <u>49</u> | | | (Month) (Day) (Year) |
| 7 Age <u>72</u> yrs. <u>11</u> mos. <u>29</u> ds. | If less than 1 day, hrs. or min.? | | 17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended the deceased from <u>Sept 13</u> , 19 <u>22</u> to <u>Sept 14</u> , 19 <u>22</u> , that I last saw him alive on <u>Sept 13</u> , 19 <u>22</u> , and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>5:45</u> Am. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>suicide by gunshot</u> |
| 8 Occupation (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work. <u>Laborer</u> | | | (Duration) <u>xx</u> yrs. <u>1</u> mos. <u>xx</u> ds. |
| 9 Birthplace (State or country) <u>Oregon</u> | | | Contributory (Secondary) _____ |
| 10 Name of Father <u>David Carson</u> | | | (Duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. |
| 11 Birthplace of Father (State or country) <u>white man by Southern state</u> | | | (Signed) <u>L. G. McElvray</u> , M. D. |
| 12 Maiden Name of Mother _____ | | | <u>Sept 14</u> , 19 <u>22</u> (Address) <u>Canyonville Or</u> |
| 13 Birthplace of Mother (State or country) <u>In the South full blood Negro</u> | | | *State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state [1] MEANS OF INJURY; and [2] whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. |
| 14 The above is true to the best of my knowledge | | | 18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents) |
| (Informant) <u>Mrs. Alice Carson</u> | | | At place of death _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. In the <u>12</u> yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. |
| (Address) <u>Adams Oregon</u> | | | Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? _____ |
| 15 Filed <u>Sept 15 1922</u> <u>C. G. Sowersby</u> Registrar | | | Former or usual residence <u>Canyonville Or</u> |
| | | 19 Place of Burial or Removal <u>Canyonville Or</u> | Date of Burial _____, 19 <u>22</u> |
| | | 20 Undertaker <u>L. G. McElvray</u> | Address <u>Canyonville Or</u> |

Hannah and Eliza Gorman

Hannah Gorman (ca. 1811–1888)

Eliza Gorman (ca. 1839–1869)

Hannah Gorman and her daughter Eliza, came to the Oregon Territory in 1844 as slaves of Major John Thorp, a farmer born in Kentucky. The records show some discrepancy in their ages, but Hannah was thought to be about 24 and Eliza about ten when they embarked on their journey west. We have also seen ages of 36 and six, respectively. They settled in Polk County between Independence and Corvallis.

It is hard to determine when they were freed or when the decision was made to change their names to Gorman, but at some point in the 1850s, Hannah and Eliza went south to Benton County. They were industrious women, Eliza an accomplished seamstress and Hannah a laundress. In 1857, they bought two lots on NW Fourth Street in Corvallis, from William F. Dixon and his wife. They built a small home on one of the lots, and later, in 1858 and 1866, Hannah and Eliza purchased two additional lots. This is significant because in 1857, Oregon adopted its Constitution and its exclusionary clause. Although the law was not enforced, the exclusionary clause prohibited Blacks from being in the state, owning property, and making contracts.

Eliza died on July 13, 1869, at the age of 30. Her obituary appeared in the *Corvallis Gazette* on Saturday, July 17, 1869, and the passage below gives us a glimpse as to what Eliza and Hannah meant to the community:

The Corvallis Gazette.

“Her intelligence, modesty, kind and sympathetic disposition, consistent with Christian life and uniform courteous behavior has won the respect and confidence of the entire community. Herself and aged mother, by industry and economy, had built them a comfortable home, furnished it in good style and surrounded it with fruit, flowers and everything necessary to human comfort and happiness. They seemed to live only for each other, and to make others happy.

....The large number of citizens in attendance and the attention she received during her illness was the strongest proof of the high estimation in which she

was held. She will be missed, and her loss mourned, by nearly every family in Corvallis.”

After Eliza’s death, Hannah moved a few times. In the 1870 census we find evidence of her living in the Portland household of J.H. Wilber, a Methodist minister, and his wife Luenetia.

By 1875, Hannah’s son, Hiram, who was left behind when Hannah and Eliza came to Oregon, and his wife Georgia Ann, owned all of Eliza’s and Hannah’s Corvallis property. That same year, they sold it to Hannah, who sold it to a person named Peter Polly. In 1880, Hannah was back in Corvallis living on Second Street, in the same household as Nancy J. Cook, her former white neighbor. She was 69 years old and listed as a boarder.

Hannah died in Salem on July 2, 1888. It is presumed that she was living with her son, Hiram, and his family at the time. She was buried in Corvallis next to her daughter.



The Hannah and Eliza Gorman House in Corvallis was built circa 1857 and expanded circa 1866.
(Image via Wikimedia)

LIVERY, HACK, AND BAGGAGE COMPANY.



Salem, Oregon, Jan 1 1889

At Estate of Mrs Hannah Gorman

To MINTO & LOWE, DR.

—A Full Supply of Horses and Buggies on Hand.—

Ready at all times to convey persons and baggage to and from the Cars and Boats.
Our Hearse will be ready at all times to attend Funerals.

THE BEST OF CARE AND ATTENTION GIVEN TO BOARDING AND TRANSIENT STOCK.

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|------------------|---|---|
| July 3 | 50 | Hearse Hire | 5 | |
| " 4 | " | 2 Hacks to Cohat | 4 | 9 |
| Paid | | | | |
| Minto & Lowe | | | | |
| Or Minto | | | | |

This receipt for a funeral hearse was part of Hannah Gorman's probate case file.

In the County court of the State of
Oregon for Marion county,

In the matter of the estate
of
Hannah Gorman deceased

Comes now S. L. Shedd administrator of
the estate of Hannah Gorman, deceased
and makes and files the following
his second statement of said estate.

Asks to be charged with the following,
To claim against Belknap Bros. and
Kennedy, appraised at \$ 887.83

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|------------|
| " Set of jewelry | " " | 5 00 |
| " Bedstead and bedding | " " | 25.00 |
| " Lot of wearing apparel | " " | 10.00 |
| " Picture of Elizabeth Gorman | " " | 1 00 |
| " Cash | " " | 71.86 |
| Total appraisement | | \$ 1000.19 |

Carried

Asks to be credited with the following
By error of thirty dollars that had been
paid on Belknap Bros. and Kennedy claim
and receipt for May 14, 1888 but not
endorsed on claim, said thirty dollars
being a part of the cash on inventory 30.00
And carried forward.

William (John) Livingstone

William (John) Livingstone (1836–1912)

William Livingstone was born into slavery in Missouri in 1836. By 1863, Livingstone was freed during the Civil War by his owner, Judge Joseph Ringo. In 1864, he came to Oregon as a free man with former owner Ringo and his family, who settled in the Oregon City area in Clackamas County. Sources indicate Livingstone was given 40 acres of property in the Clarkes area, southeast of Oregon City.

Livingstone was an industrious and successful businessman. As a hostler, he transported wood and lumber from the bluffs in Oregon City to the buildings being built in what is now known as the old downtown area.

Livingstone was also a successful farmer, landowner, and a prominent member of the State Grange. He bought and sold property on multiple occasions in the Clackamas County area and beyond. In July of 1884, Livingstone became the mortgage holder for some property in Oregon City for two other local residents, Duncan Cameron and J.E. Coates, for a total sum of \$1599.00 plus interest. Later this transaction became part of a legal dispute when Livingstone sold the mortgage to a Mr. Driggs, who took Cameron and Coates to court for non-payment.

According to Livingstone's will, at the time of his death he owned 160 acres of property in Lake County, as well as 800 shares of the Ogle Creek Mining Company, located near Molalla. He also owned a life insurance policy through the Grange Insurance Company and his estate was valued at \$15,000 (over \$360,000 in today's dollars). Livingstone's estate was eventually settled by his son and heir, Charles Livingstone, in 1916.

Sources indicate that hundreds of people attended William Livingstone's funeral. His story illustrates the opportunity that a motivated, business-minded former slave could potentially carve out in the early decades of the state of Oregon.

Livingstone's earliest appearance in Clackamas County's deed records shows him selling a total of 128 acres of property located southeast of Oregon City to the very man who had previously owned him as a slave in Missouri.



William (John) Livingstone.

37 my assessment under letter K

| NAME | DESCRIPTION OF LAND | Section | Township | Range | No. Acres | Value of Land | No. of Rock | No. of Lot | Value of each Lot | Value of all Lots | Value Personal Property | Value all Property | Poll Tax | Indebtedness | State Tax | School Tax | County Tax | Total Tax | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------|
| Lourence Thomas | | | | | | | | | | 1800 | 1650 | 1 | 150 | | | | | 2827 | Paid |
| Lourence Alfred | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 34 | 15 | 38 | 160 | | | | | 350 | | 1 | 150 | | | | | 100 | Paid |
| Lavery R. J. (Hussey) | S. 1/2 Sec 20 | 20 | 35 | 18 | 160 | 200 | | | | 200 | | | | 110 | 40 | 120 | 270 | Paid | |
| Lavery William | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 20 | 35 | 18 | 170 | 210 | | | | 278 | 235 | | | 157 | 57 | 171 | 385 | Paid | |
| Leiby John W. | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 20 | 35 | 18 | 40 | 400 | | | | 990 | 1020 | 1 | 370 | 561 | 204 | 612 | 1477 | Paid | |
| Lesley M. C. | | 13 | 14 | 35 | 100 | 350 | | | | 403 | 1493 | 1 | 240 | 821 | 299 | 896 | 2016 | Paid | |
| Lewis J. (Heir of) | E. 1/2 Sec 18 | 13 | 53 | 18 | 160 | 200 | | | | 200 | | | | 110 | 40 | 120 | 270 | Paid | |
| Louise Wm | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 4 | 53 | 38 | 203 | 905 | | | | 604 | 109 | 1 | 100 | 60 | 21 | 66 | 147 | Paid | |
| Lueder Julia | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 34 | 25 | 25 | 18 | 100 | | | | 135 | 885 | | | 487 | 177 | 531 | 1195 | Paid | |
| Lewington Wm | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 43 | 38 | 120 | 950 | | | | | 528 | 228 | 1 | 800 | 125 | 45 | 136 | 406 | Paid | |
| Larkins Maurer | Sanatitan | 24 | 38 | 48 | 28 | 640 | | | | 756 | 2257 | | | 1228 | 450 | 1351 | 3029 | Paid | |
| Larson Charles | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 41 | 6 | 38 | 165 | 600 | | | | | 150 | 1 | 800 | 82 | 30 | 90 | 302 | Paid | |
| Lathell Caro | | | | | | | | | | 358 | | 1 | 800 | | | | 100 | Paid | |
| Louise Michael | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 35 | 33 | 45 | 28 | 290 | | | | 348 | 148 | | | 50 | 29 | 87 | 129 | Paid | |
| Larkins J. S. S. | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 800 | | | | 100 | Paid | |
| Lewellin O. B. | Chas. M. 40 | 38 | 43 | 48 | 320 | 2000 | | | | 1092 | 3692 | | | 1480 | 538 | 1615 | 3633 | Paid | |
| Lewellin John T. | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 38 | 43 | 48 | 160 | | | | | 670 | 670 | 1 | 800 | 370 | 134 | 402 | 1006 | Paid | |
| Lacey L. H. | | 8 | 43 | 48 | 240 | 1100 | | | | 624 | 1424 | | | 785 | 285 | 855 | 1925 | Paid | |
| Lacey L. W. | | 16 | 43 | 48 | 265 | 1000 | | | | 675 | 1125 | | | 640 | 233 | 698 | 1568 | Paid | |
| Linn W. V. Philip | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 54 | 38 | 38 | 42 | 640 | | | | 710 | 3010 | | | 1660 | 602 | 1806 | 4068 | Paid | |
| Lewis Peter | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 51 | 37 | 38 | 160 | 800 | | | | 274 | 460 | 1 | 800 | 330 | 120 | 360 | 910 | Paid | |
| Lucas John H. | | | | | | | | | | 190 | | 1 | 800 | | | | 100 | Paid | |
| Lakey John | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 800 | | | | 100 | Paid | |
| Lakey John | James Churchlain | 35 | 36 | 15 | 38 | 340 | | | | 574 | 774 | 1 | 800 | 426 | 155 | 464 | 1045 | Paid | |
| Lamell Isaac | Sanatitan | 25 | 33 | 25 | 38 | 600 | | | | 1500 | | | | 825 | 300 | 900 | 2025 | Paid | |
| Larkins R. H. | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 25 | 45 | 28 | 160 | | | | | 303 | | 1 | 800 | | | | | Paid | |
| Lane Wm | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 800 | | | | | Paid | |
| Lane R. | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 800 | | | | | Paid | |
| Lay W. T. | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 800 | | | | | Paid | |
| Laurigan A. | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 800 | | | | | Paid | |
| Ladd W. | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | 79 | 35 | 120 | 40 | 80 | | | | 80 | | | | 44 | 16 | 48 | 108 | Paid | |
| Linton Chas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 108 | Paid |
| Lansman John | | 25 | 30 | 23 | 15 | 40 | | | | 120 | | | | | | | | 108 | Paid |
| Lee Orin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 108 | Paid |
| Linn J. H. | W. 1/2 Sec 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 108 | Paid |

Witness my hand and seal this 20th day of Feb-
-ruary A.D. 1872, W.T. Burns
Filed & Recorded
Feb 20th 1872 J.P.

Jon Trazer
Recorder

W. Livingstone
to
J.T. Kingo
✓
✓

This Indenture Witnesseth That William
Livingstone for the consideration of the sum of
One hundred and thirty-five Dollars to him paid
have bargained, sold and by these presents do bargain
sell and convey unto J.T. Kingo the following
described Land to wit, N $\frac{1}{2}$ of S $\frac{1}{2}$ and Lots 1, 10,
11 & 12 Section 20, Township 4 S Range 3 East containing
Eighty-Eight $\frac{86}{100}$ ($88\frac{86}{100}$) acres, To have and to hold the
said premises with their appurtenances unto
the said J.T. Kingo, his heirs and assigns, that I
am the owner in fee simple of said premises
that they are free from all incumbrances and
that I will warrant and defend the same from
all lawful claims whatsoever.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
hand and seal this 20th day of Feb 1872
Done in presence of

Henry M. Lee Henry his
J.M. Trazer 30th Stamp mark
State of Oregon 3
Chakamas Cam 3 This certifies that on this 20th

And it further appearing from the testimony of J. W. McAnulty and F. A. Miles that said decedent on the 13th day of June 1912, in their presence executed the Will now propounded for Probate,

IN THE NAME OF GOD ----AMEN.

KNOW ALL MEN, That I, William Livingston Oregon City of in the State of Oregon, of the age of 73 years, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and not acting under duress, menace, fraud or undue influence of any person whomsoever, do make, publish and declare this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following, to-wit:

FIRST. It is my will, and I do order, that all my just debts and funeral expenses be duly paid and satisfied as soon as conveniently can be done after my decease.

SECOND. I give and bequeath unto only Son Charles I. Livingston, All my property both personal and real that I die in possession of, which consists of One Hundred and Sixty (160) acres in Lake County, Oregon, My personal property consists of Eight Hundred (800) shares of mining stock in the Ogle Creek Mining Company, My Life is insured in the Grange Insurance Company for \$250.00. But Bee it remembered that the Charles I. Livingston is to hold & control the real property above named or any other real Estate that I may acquire hereafter or that is in my name at my death or decease, during the life time of the said Charles I. Livingston but; cant dispose of any of the real property. That is if the said Charles I. Livingston should die without any heirs but if there be heirs then said land goes to said heirs and to share & share alike. Should the said Charles I. Livingston die without heirs then all of my property both personal and real is to be donated to the Patton Home for old people in Portland, Oregon.

AND LASTLY, I nominate, constitute and appoint W. W. H. Samson to be the executor of this, my Last Will, hereby revoking all other Wills, Legacies and Bequests by me heretofore made, and declaring this, and no other, to be my Last Will and Testament. And to act without bonds.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, this 13th day of June in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ten (1910).

HIS
WILLIAM X LIVINGSTON, (Seal.)
mark

The above instrument was at the date thereof signed, sealed, published and declared, by the said William Livingston as and for his Last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, who, at his request and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

J. W. McANULTY

Residing at Oregon City, Ore.

F. A. MILES

Residing at Oregon City, Ore.

and it appearing to the Court that said document is the Last Will and Testament of said decedent, and that it was executed in all particulars according to law; that said decedent, at the time he executed said Will as aforesaid, was upwards of 73 years of age, and he was at the time of sound mind, and not laboring under any restraint or undue influence, and that in said

Rachel Belden Brooks

Rachel Belden Brooks (1829–1910)

Rachel Belden Brooks was born in Tennessee in 1829, and like other slaves, was given her owner's surname of Belden. On September 3, 1842, Rachel was sold to Daniel Delaney, Sr. when Mr. Delaney decided to move his family west, he sold all his property, including his slaves. His wife's health was poor so he kept Rachel to care for the ailing Ms. Delaney on the journey from Tennessee to the Oregon Territory. They arrived in Oregon in 1843 and settled in Marion County, where Delaney, Sr. staked his claim on a large quantity of land near the Turner area.

Rachel received her freedom sometime in the early 1860s and she married Nathan Brooks on September 15, 1863. Nathan was a 70-year-old widower who had five children from a previous marriage. Rachel already had two sons, Noah Newman and Jackson "Jack" whose father was suspected to be Daniel Delaney Sr. Rachel had additional two sons, Samuel and Mansfield, with Nathan Brooks. The family lived on the farm of Daniel Waldo who came to Oregon on the same wagon train as the Delaney family.

On the evening of January 9, 1865, Daniel Delaney, Sr. was shot and killed by George Beale and George Baker. Delaney, Sr. had amassed a small fortune and there were rumors of buried treasure in his house or somewhere on the property. According to Beale's testimony, they conspired to kill Delaney, Sr. for his money. The sole witness was Rachel's son Jack, who was about seven or eight years old.

After the death of Daniel Delaney, Rachel sued the estate in civil court for the sum of \$10,333.30 for payment for services and work for her and her son Noah Newman, for a combined total of 27 years and 10 months. She was awarded \$1,000, with the argument that because she and her son were housed and fed at the Delaney's, it negated any additional cost of payment for work.

In 1874, Nathan died and after his passing, Rachel worked hard to support her family. The 1877 tax records showed "...she owned 144 homestead acres on the west side on the Willamette River, near the bend in the river across from Keizer." She is listed in the Salem and Marion County directories from 1902 until her death, as living in the Salem area. She died on October 12, 1910, and was buried at City View Cemetery in Salem, next to her son, Noah.

State of Oregon
County of Marion
This is to certify that the undersigned minister of the gospel did
(in accordance with license procured from under the hand of the County
clerk of said County) on the 15th day of September A. D. 1863 join
in lawful wedlock Nathan Brooks and Rachael Delaney with
their mutual consent in presence of James Gholson and Hezekiah
Stipp witnesses
John Stipp minister of the gospel.

The 1863 marriage records of Rachel and Nathan

Brooks. **Transcript with enlarged im
age**

(<https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWeb>

[Drawer/Recordhtml/9975591](https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/9975591))

AGED SALEM SLAVE DIES

**MRS. RACHEL BROOKS, PIONEER
OF '43, PASSES AWAY.**

**Woman Was Bought by Daniel De-
laney, Dalles Murder Victim.
Buried Treasure Her Secret.**

SALEM, Or., Oct. 13. — (Special.) —
Mrs. Rachel Brooks, 90 years of age
and believed to be the last of the
negro slave women coming to Oregon,
died here yesterday.

Mrs. Brooks came to Oregon in 1843,
accompanying the Delaney family to
The Dalles. Daniel Delaney was her
master, and she was with him when
Delaney was murdered by Beal and
Baker, January 8, 1865. Beal and Baker
were hanged in a large grove near the
city, theirs being the first execution
ever witnessed in Marion County, and
thousands of people from all over the
Willamette Valley thronged to see them
pay the penalty for their crime.

After the Delaney family reached The
Dalles, Mrs. Brooks, with the family,
was floated down the Columbia River
in a wagon box. Delaney purchased
Rachel Brooks as a slave girl, paying
\$1000 for her. In the early '60s she
claimed her freedom, and was mar-
ried twice since.

She said she knew where a large
amount of treasure was buried near
the Delaney home near Turner, but
never divulged her secret. Delaney
was murdered on the supposition that
he was one of the wealthiest men in
Oregon. If this supposition was true,
his wealth was never found, and there
are many who believe that the negress'
story of buried treasure is correct.

Mrs. Brooks is survived by two sons,

Rachel Belden Brooks 1910 obituary.

Transcript of article with large image:

<https://records.sos.state.or.us/>

[ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/9975593](https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/9975593)



Received of William Delany Administrator
of the estate of Daniel Delany deceased
the sum of One Thousand dollars
in full of all demands and claims
of whatever kind or character due or
to become due or claimed by us from
the estate of said deceased either on ac-
count of the undersigned Rachel Brooks
or Nathano Brooks or either or both of us
and of all claim or demand whatever of
the said Rachel Brooks as well as for
all and every claim or demand ~~and pre-~~
~~tended claim or demand~~ of one Noah
Newman minor son of the said Rachel
against said estate for whom (the said
Noah Newman) we are the lawful repre-
sentatives and for whose claim ~~or pretended~~
~~claim~~ against said Estate we have good
right to receipt. And that we do hereby
release discharge and for ever cancel
all and every claim demand right
title and interest of whatever kind we
now have or claim to have against
said Estate. And that as a further
consideration of the said sum of One
Thousand dollars we do hereby agree
to and do dismiss and discontinue
a certain action now pending in the

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, that it may be properly classified. The "Special Information" for persons dying away from home should be given in every instance.

PLACE OF DEATH

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

County of Morris

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Village of _____

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Registered No. **3254**

City of Salem

[If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution give its Name instead of street and number.]

[If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information"]

No. South Salem St.; Ward _____
FULL NAME Mrs Rachel Ann Brooks

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

SEX

COLOR

Female

Caucasian

DATE OF BIRTH

(Month) (Day) (Year)

AGE

90 years, _____ months, _____ days

SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED

Widow

BIRTHPLACE (State or Country)

Tenn

NAME OF FATHER

Unknown

BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country)

..

MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER

..

BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country)

..

OCCUPATION

Housewife

THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

(Informant) Mrs. M. Brooks

(Address) _____

Filed

19

Registrar.

DATE OF DEATH

Oct 12 1910
(Month) (Day) (Year)

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased ~~from~~ on Oct 12 1910, to _____ 19____;

that I last saw h. _____ alive on _____ 19____, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 5:30 A.M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:

Hemorrhage of the Lungs

(duration) _____ days

Contributory _____

(duration) _____ days

(Signed) A. W. Blough coron M. D.

Oct 13 1910 (Address) Salem O.

SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents.

Former or Usual Residence _____ How long at Place of Death? _____ Days

Where was disease contracted if not at Place of Death? _____

PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL

DATE OF BURIAL

City View cem

Oct 13 1910

UNDERTAKER

ADDRESS

Lehman & Blough

Salem O.

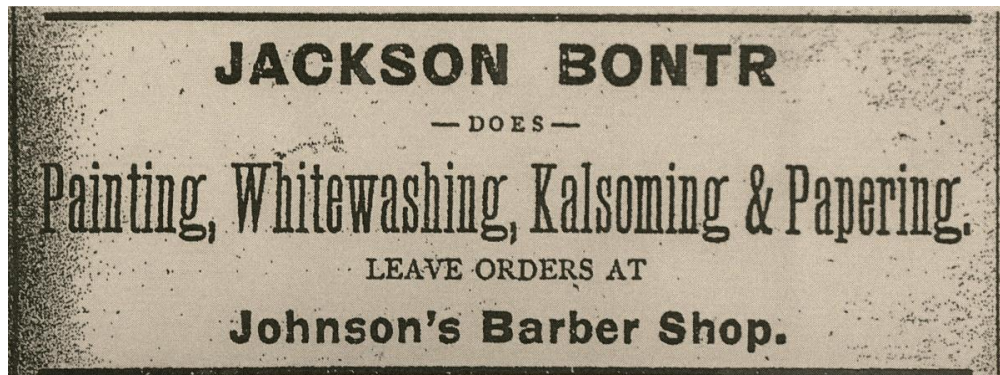
Official web site of
Oregon Secretary of State

William P. Johnson; Elizabeth Johnson Waterford; Jackson "Jack" Bonter

**William P. Johnson
(1820–1872)**

**Elizabeth Johnson
Waterford (1834–
1917)**

**Jackson "Jack" Bonter
(1833–1915)**



A newspaper advertisement for Jackson Bonter's services.

As with many of the stories of Oregon's early Black pioneers, there is a fair amount of overlap with the individuals involved in these stories. With a small Black population, it is easy to believe that it was a tight knit community. This was the case with the Bonter family and William and Elizabeth Johnson.

We do not know much about William Johnson's or Jack Bonter's early life except that they were born in slave states. William came from North Carolina and Jack from Kentucky. We don't have definitive answers as to whether they came to Oregon as slaves or freemen or when William arrived in Oregon, but he and Elizabeth are listed on the 1860 U.S. Census in Marion County. He is listed as a painter with a real estate value of \$1000 and personal value of \$310.

Jackson "Jack" Bonter, also a painter by trade, arrived in Oregon around 1855. In 1865, Jack married Mary Parks. William Johnson is listed as one of the witnesses at their wedding. Jack and Mary had three children named William, George, and Rosetta, before Mary's death in 1870.

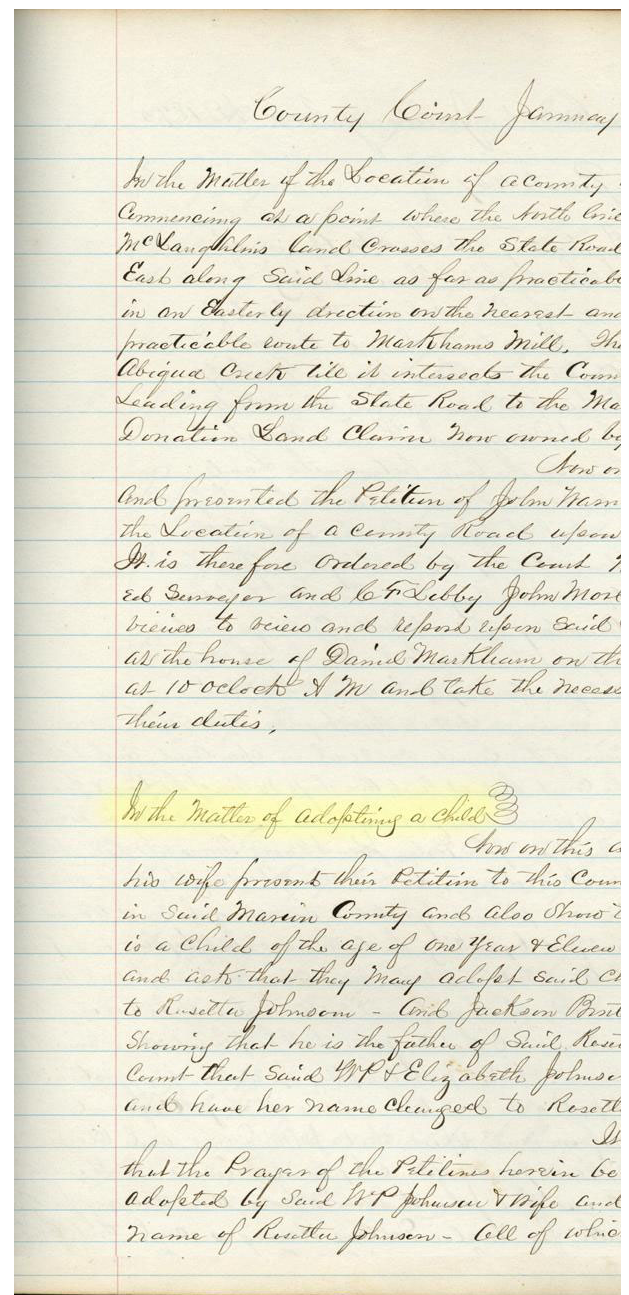
The Johnsons petitioned the Marion County Commissioners to adopt Rosetta and she is listed in the 1870 census as living with the Johnsons. It's possible Jack wanted the Johnsons to legally adopt her, as Jack also filed an affidavit requesting that the Johnsons adopt Rosetta. The request was granted in January of 1872. Rosetta was listed as 1 year, 11 months. The Johnsons were a prosperous couple. According to William's probate from after his death on July 10, 1872, he had about \$2,750 in real estate from the four lots of land he owned in Salem and about \$300 in personal property.

After the passing of William, Elizabeth remarried sometime between 1872 and 1880, when we find her again in the census. She is listed as married to William Waterford and residing in Portland along with Rosetta and two others: Eldridge Waterford, 23, and Rufus Waterford, 19, who are listed as being born in Canada. According to William Waterford's 1893 probate, they also owned property in East Portland. Elizabeth died on April 9, 1917.

Jack never remarried and died in 1915. Of the Bonter children, it appears George is the only one to survive well into adulthood as we see a George Bonter listed in the 1920 Multnomah County census. He is listed as a Black 48 year old repairman at a garage and a renter in Portland. He is married to Adeline Bonter also listed as 48 years old. William Botner died in 1877 and there are conflicting sources as to Rosetta's age and date of death. One source lists her birth in 1879 and death in 1889. This seems implausible, as her mother died in 1870. Another lists her birth in 1870 and death in 1880. 1880 is the date on her tombstone. The inscription reads "Rosetta Bonter adopted dau. of W.P. & E. Johnson Died Dec. 28, 1880 aged 10 yrs, 11mos. 20 ds." Mathematically, this would make her birth in February 1870.

View William Johnson's 1872 34-page estate case file

(<https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/11129731>).



The 1872 Marion County Court adoption record for Rosetta Johnson. **Transcript with enlarged image**

(<https://records.sos.state.or.us/ORSOSWebDrawer/Recordhtml/9975592>)

Form S-19

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Mult. **PORTLAND, OREGON** Registered No. 42
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Town of Portland No. 387 East 12th North Street 658
City of Portland

2 FULL NAME Elizabeth Waterford

STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX Female 4 COLOR OR RACE Black 5 SINGLE Widowed
MARRIED
WIDOWED
OR DIVORCED
(Write the Word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH Not Known 1 83rd
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE 83 years, — months, — days If LESS than 1 day, — hrs. or — min.

8 OCCUPATION
(a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work none.
(b) General nature of Industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Missouri

PARENTS

10 NAME OF FATHER Not Known

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) —

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER —

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) —

13a LENGTH OF RESIDENCE
At Place of Death 6 days years. months
In Oregon 69 years. months

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
(Informant) A. E. Flowers
(Address) 387-E. 12th N.

15 Filed 4/10/17 Marshall
Registrar or Deputy.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH April 9 1917
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Feb 4 - 1917, to Apr 9 - 1917
that I last saw him alive on Apr 8 - 1917
and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 8:45 A.M.
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Senility

(Duration) — yrs. — mos. — dys.
Contributory Arterio Sclerosis
Secondary

(Duration) — yrs. — mos. — dys.
(Signed) J. A. McCombs M. D.
4-10-1917 Address 617 - North 1st St.

† State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES state (1) MEANS OF INJURY and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.

18 SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Regent Residents.
Former or Usual Residence City How long at Place of Death? 6 Dys.
Where was disease contracted, if not at Place of Death?

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Home DATE OF BURIAL April 12, 1917

20 UNDERTAKER F. S. Durbin Inc. ADDRESS 414 E. 12th St.

EXACT STATEMENT OF OCCUPATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. See instructions on back of certificate.

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

| 1 PLACE OF DEATH | | Oregon State Board of Health 5817 | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|------------------|
| BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS | | STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
| County | Marion | Registered No. | 91 |
| Township | | Ward | |
| Village | | [If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.] | |
| City | Salem | (No. State Hospital) | St. |
| 2 FULL NAME | | Jackson Bonter | |
| PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS | | MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
| 3 SEX | 4 COLOR OR RACE | 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED. | 16 DATE OF DEATH |
| male | black | widowed | Nov 8, 1915 |
| 6 DATE OF BIRTH | 833 Oct 2, 1915, to Nov 8, 1915 | | |
| 7 AGE | 82 yrs. mos. ds. | | |
| 8 OCCUPATION | Laborer | | |
| 9 BIRTHPLACE | Kentucky | | |
| 10 NAME OF FATHER | | | |
| 11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER | | | |
| 12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER | | | |
| 13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER | | | |
| 14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE | | 17 I Hereby Certify, That I attended deceased from | |
| (Informant) State Hospital | | Oct 2, 1915, to Nov 8, 1915 | |
| (Address) Salem Ore. | | that I last saw him alive on Nov 8, 1915 | |
| | | and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 10 m. | |
| | | The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: | |
| | | Cerebral Arteriosclerosis | |
| | | Contributory Smile exhaustion | |
| | | (Signed) Chas E Bates M. D. | |
| | | Nov 8, 1915 (Address) Salem Ore. | |
| | | *State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. | |
| | | 18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents) | |
| | | At place of death yrs. 1 mos. 6 ds. In the State yrs. 60 mos. ds. | |
| | | Where was disease contracted? Marion Co. | |
| | | Former or usual residence Salem Ore. | |
| | | 19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL | DATE OF BURIAL |
| | | 200 F. cemetery | Nov 10, 1915 |
| | | 20 UNDERTAKER | ADDRESS |
| | | Lehman & Blough | Salem Ore. |
| 15 Filed 10-9-15 | | Registrar | |

Official web site of

Oregon Secretary of State

America Waldo Bogle and Richard Arthur Bogle

America Waldo Bogle (1844–1903)

Richard Arthur Bogle (1835–1904)

America Waldo was born in Missouri in 1844. Her parentage was most likely a slave mother and one of the Waldo brothers who were businessmen and slave owners in Missouri. America came to the Oregon Territory on one of the early wagon trains. Upon arrival she lived with the family of Daniel Waldo who staked his claim east of Salem, in what is now known as Waldo Hills.

On January 1, 1863, America married Jamaican immigrant Richard Bogle, a successful barber in Salem. Soon after they wed, they moved to Walla Walla in the Washington Territory. Richard opened a well-respected barbershop on Main Street. The Bogles also became successful and wealthy as ranchers. Richard was one of the founders of the Walla Walla Building and Loan Association.

They lived in Walla Walla until their deaths, America in 1903 and Richard in 1904. Of their eight children, five lived into adulthood. Two of their three sons followed in their father's footsteps and became professional barbers in Portland.



America and Richard Bogle



A family portrait circa 1884 of Richard and America Bogle and five of their surviving children: Arthur, Belle, Warren, Kate and Waldo. (Benton County Historical Archives)

The 1863 marriage record of America and Richard Bogle.

This is to certify that the undersigned
a minister of the Gospel, did, in the City
of Salem, on the first day of Jan^y 1863 unite
in lawful wedlock Richard Bogle of
Walla Walla W.T. and America Holdo of
the City of Salem, of which marriage
Jos^s S. Wilson Esq and W^m Johnson are
witnesses O. Dickinson Minister

Amanda Gardiner Johnson and Benjamin Johnson

Amanda Gardiner Johnson (1833–1927)

Benjamin Johnson (1834–1901)

Amanda Gardiner Johnson was a slave gifted to Lydia Corum as a wedding present when she married Anderson Deckard. In 1853, the Deckards decided to come to Oregon and offered Amanda her freedom if she wanted to remain in Missouri. She elected instead to travel over the Oregon Trail with the family. Free in Oregon, Amanda lived with the Deckards until 1858, when she went to Albany and secured work at the J.H. Foster home. In 1870, she married former slave and blacksmith, Benjamin Johnson. The Johnsons lived, the rest of their lives on the corner of Elm Street and 7th Avenue SW in Albany.



OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Dr. Atkinson

1 PLACE OF DEATH

County Linn State Ore State Registered No. 82
 Township _____ or Village _____ Local Registered No. 236
 City Albany No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
 (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME

Amanda Gardiner Johnson
 (a) Residence. No. 807 California St. _____
 (Usual place of abode) (If nonresident, give city or town and state)
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 15 yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX 7 4 COLOR OR RACE Black 5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word) Widowed

5a If married, widowed, or divorced
 HUSBAND of Benjamin Johnson
 (or) WIFE of

6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) _____

7 AGE Years Months Days If less than 1 day, hrs. or min.
93 10 27

8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
 (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work at home
 (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____
 (c) Name of employer _____

9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Missouri
 (State or country)

10 NAME OF FATHER Gardiner

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) Mo
 (State or country)

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Amy Estes

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) Mo
 (State or country)

14 Informant Maudie Henderson
 (Address) Albany Ore

15 Filed April 9, 1927 Dr. J. J. G. J. Registrar.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Mar 27 1927

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Mar 1, 1927, to Mar 25, 1927, that I last saw her alive on Mar 25, 1927, and that death occurred on the date stated above, at 8:00 A. M.

The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: _____

Pneumonia
 (duration) 25 yrs., 0 mos., 0 days.

CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) _____

(duration) _____ yrs., _____ mos., _____ days.

18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? _____

Did an operation precede death? _____ Date of _____

Was there an autopsy? _____

What test confirmed diagnosis? _____

(Signed) Dr. J. J. G. J., M. D.

_____, 19____ (Address) Albany Oregon

* State the Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL Masonic

DATE OF BURIAL

3/29 1927

ADDRESS

20 UNDERTAKER Portmiller Funeral Home

Albany

T. T. Portmiller

Official web site of

Oregon Secretary of State

Sources and Credits

Sources

Gwen Carr and volunteer researchers at **Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers**
(<https://oregonblackpioneers.org/>)

Oregon State Archives (</archives/Pages/default.aspx>) staff, student interns and volunteers

Willamette Heritage Center (<https://www.willametteheritage.org/>)

The Oregon Encyclopedia (<https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/>)

Perseverance: A History of African Americans in Oregon's and Polk Counties by Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers

Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory
(<https://osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/breaking-chains>) by R. Gregory Nokes

A Peculiar Paradise: A History of Blacks in Oregon, 1788-1940 by Elizabeth McLagan

Saga of the Mask Plantation North Carolina: Slaves Journey to Oregon
(<https://www.worldcat.org/title/saga-of-the-mask-plantation-north-carolina-slaves-journey-to-oregon/oclc/944958919>) by Barbara Hegne

Blackpast.org (<https://www.blackpast.org/>) - Remembered and Reclaimed an Online Reference Guide to African American History

Friends of Leticia Carson Facebook Page (<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Friends+of+Leticia+Carson+Facebook+Page&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>)

Find a Grave.com (<https://www.findagrave.com/>)

Oregon State Archives - **Early Oregonian Database**
(<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/personProfileSearch.do>)

Lane County Historical Society (<https://www.lchm.org/>)

Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/>)

Familysearch.org (<https://www.familysearch.org/>)

Credits

Gallery Exhibit

Theresa Rea
Layne Sawyer
Colleen Needham

Andy Needham
Mary Beth Herkert
Kristine Deacon
Austin Schulz
Phil Wiebe
Todd Shaffer
Gary Halvorson

Web Exhibit

Gary Halvorson