

William Hamilton Riddle

Pioneer of 1851

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

See: Ryan Wadleigh's website for additional information and photos for the William H. Riddle family at <http://www.ryanwadleigh.com/riddle.html>

William Hamilton Riddle

b. 01 Sep 1805 Bourbon County, Kentucky

d. 04 Apr 1891 Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

s/o William Riddle (1772-1813) and Jane Davidson (1775-1812)

m. 13 Jul 1826 Champaign County, Ohio

Maxamillia Bousman

b. 13 Jan 1809 Champaign County, Ohio

d. 30 Aug 1868 North Canyonville, Douglas County, Oregon

"W. H. Riddle: lives on Cow creek; post-office is Riddle; came to state and county in 1851; was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky." [History of Southern Oregon by A.G. Walling p. 515]

"Cow Creek Valley and Riddle.—The valley of Cow creek is about six miles in length by one and one-half in width, and its comparatively level surface is drained by the stream of that name, which flows into the South Umpqua, the latter stream running along the east side of the valley. The surrounding elevations are known as the Cow creek mountains. The trees of the surrounding region are chiefly fir, pine, oak, cedar and madrone. The soil of the valley is chiefly a rich black alluvium, known as bottom lands, and is well adapted to general agriculture. Wheat, oats, corn, barley and all kinds of vegetables are prolific. There is considerable stock owned in the valley, a portion of which is of imported strains of pure blood.

The name Cow creek is said to have been bestowed upon this stream because of the following incident: An emigrant named Baker was entering Oregon by the southern route, and camping one night near the site of Canyonville, the Indians stole his cattle. In the morning he set out in search of his lost stock, and soon found all but one peacefully grazing in this quiet valley. The missing one had tickled the palates of the natives. The first settlers along Cow creek came in 1851, W. G. Hearn leading the van early in the spring and taking the first donation claim. The first family came the same spring, being that of William H. Riddle, followed soon by that of John Catching. Other arrivals of the year were I. B. Nichols and John Smith. By the close of 1852, nearly all the tillable lands were claimed. Other old-comers and prominent residents of the valley are : W. L. Wilson, J. Russell, Noah Cornutt, Hardy Ellilf, M. Dean, Watson Mynatt, Jefferson Dyer, Abner Riddle, G. W. Riddle, J. B. Riddle, J. D. Cornutt, G. W. Colvig and J. D. Johnson." [History of Southern Oregon by A.G. Walling p. 423-4]

Children of William Riddle and Maxamillia Bousman:

1. Jane Riddle [did not emigrate to Oregon]

b. 14 Apr 1828 Logan County, Ohio

d. 27 May 1892 Sangamon County, Illinois

m. Thomas Wilson

2. Artinecia Riddle [emigrant of 1851]

b. 11 Oct 1830 Logan County, Ohio

d. 10 Jan 1917 Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

d/o William H. Riddle and Maxamillia Bousman

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m1. 22 Feb 1848 [deceased prior to Riddle family emigration]

John William Chapman (seen listed in some sources as James B. Chapman)

b.

d.

Child of Chapman and Artinecia Riddle:

1. John William Chapman

b. 15 Jun 1850 Sangamon County, Illinois

d. 18 Dec 1933 Carbon County, Montana

buried Red Lodge Cemetery, Red Lodge, Carbon County, Montana

m2. 10 Feb 1853 Cow Creek, Douglas County, Oregon

William Harrison Merriman [emigrant of 1852]

b. 04 Mar 1825 Scott County, Kentucky

d. 16 Sep 1877 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

s/o Reuben Merriman (1790-1842) and Betsey Bennett (1789-1842)

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m1. Mary Ann Lewis [Pioneer of 1852] died on trail in Kansas

"Mrs. Artinecia Merriman lives near Central Point; is a farmer post office Jacksonville; was born in Champagne county, Ohio in 1830; came to state 1851, and to county in 1856; Artinecia (Riddle) Merriman was married February 22, 1848, to James Chapman deceased; children, John W., Lucinda J., George F., Laura A., Maria E., Annie A., Isaac A., Mary B., Isabel, Effie, Josephine and Willie; Mr. Merriman had one daughter Anletta L.; Mrs. Merriman has buried four children, Chas. H., Walter, Prudence and Winaford." [History of Southern Oregon comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties by A.G. Walling p. 505]

"William H. Merriman: died in Jackson county, September 16, 1877; was a cabinet maker and joiner; was born in Kentucky; came to state in 1852 and to county in 1856; was married February 10, 1853, to Mrs. A. Chapman." [History of Southern Oregon comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties by A.G. Walling p. 505]

MOTHER OF 16 PASSES

**MRS. ARTIMEERIA MERRIMAN'S
SURVIVORS MANY.**

**Noted Southern Oregon Pioneer Married
John Chapman in Illinois, Who
Died in 1851.**

MEDFORD, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—One of Southern Oregon's noted pioneers, Mrs. Artimeeria Merriman, who died January 10, at the home of her daughter in Medford, Mrs. S. L. Bennett, was born at West Liberty, O., October 11, 1830.

At the age of 18 she was married to John Chapman, and for a few years made her home at Springfield, Ill. In 1851 her parents made preparations to leave Illinois for Oregon, and but a few days before their departure John Chapman died, leaving his widow with a child, John Chapman, and the young woman accompanied her parents to Oregon, coming by the southern trail, where they suffered from the usual Indian attacks, and settled finally at their future home on the Umpqua River, the town of Riddle being named for Mrs. Merriman's father.

On February 10, 1853, she married William H. Merriman, who was a member of the party crossing the plains with her, and in 1857 the family removed to Jackson County, where the Merriman farm on the Pacific Highway, southeast of Central Point, is still in possession of the family.

Mrs. Merriman was the mother of 16 children, of whom 11 are still living. A daughter of her husband by a prior marriage, Mrs. Lettie Harvey, of Ashland, also survives. John Chapman, the eldest son, lives at Red Lodge, Mont., and with his wife had the privilege of being with his mother at the end.

Mrs. Lucinda J. Prather, the next in age, lives at Big Timber, Mont.; Laura A. Bradley, at Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Marie Bennett, Mrs. Annie Clark and I. A. Merriman, in Medford; Mrs. Mollie Houston, in Portland, Or.; Mrs. Isabel Frank in Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. Effie Hill and Mrs. Josephine Beek in Seattle; Will Merriman in Oakland, Cal. Five children are now deceased: George Merriman, Charles, Walter, Prudence and Winnifred. Mrs. R. V. Beall, of Central Point, is a sister. George and Abner Riddle, of Riddle, in Douglas County, and also Stilly Riddle, of Hardin, Mont., brothers, also are living.

Thirty-seven grandchildren and a number of the fourth generation do her honor.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Sunday, January 21, 1917 p. 8]

MOTHER OF 16 PASSES

Mrs. Artenecia Riddle Merriman,
Pioneer, Succumbs at 88.

RIDDLE, Or., Jan. 12.—(Special.)—
Mrs. Artenecia Riddle Merriman, sis-

ter of G. W. and Abner Riddle, of this place, died at Medford January 9 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Samuel Bennet, at the age of 88 years. Funeral services were held yesterday at the Jacksonville cemetery, where her husband, William H. Merriman, was buried in 1877.

Mrs. Merriman had been ill with uremic poisoning and bedfast for three months. For a time she was at the Good Samaritan Hospital, at Portland.

Mrs. Merriman was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and was married in Illinois to John W. Chapman, who died in that state. After his death she crossed the plains to Oregon in the same train as Mr. Merriman.

In 1856 Mrs. Merriman, with her husband, moved to Jackson County and settled two miles north of Medford, the old family home, which is now held by Isaac Merriman, one of her sons.

Mrs. Merriman was the mother of 16 children, nearly all of whom are living.

[Morning Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Saturday, January 13, 1917 p. 2]

Children of William Merriman and Artinecia Riddle:

i. Lucinda Jane Merriman

b. 02 May 1852 Cow Creek Valley, Douglas County, Oregon

d. 10 Jun 1919 Seattle, King County, Washington

m. 22 Feb 1872 Jackson County, Oregon

Thomas Theodore Prather

b. 21 Dec 1843 Clermont County, Ohio

d. 16 Jan 1904 Sweet Grass County, Montana

ii. George Francis Merriman

b. 16 Sep 1855 Cow Creek Valley, Douglas County, Oregon

d. 06 Nov 1915 Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Eastwood IOOF Cemetery, Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 08 Nov 1877 Jackson County, Oregon

Mary Elizabeth Murray

b. 06 May 1857 Stephenson County, Illinois

d. 07 Oct 1923 Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Eastwood IOOF Cemetery, Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

"George F. Merriman: lives in Oakland; is a blacksmith; was born in Douglas county, Oregon, September 16, 1856; married November 8, 1877, to Mary Murray. Children, Thomas C, Mary L. and Creed." [History of Southern Oregon comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties by A.G. Walling p. 514]

"GEORGE FRANCIS MERRIMAN. In tracing the source of the importance of Medford, mention is due George Francis Merriman, who. from obscurity and financial limitations, has risen to business, educational, and political prominence, Mr. Merriman's ladder of success has been made up of a useful blacksmith trade, fine personal honor, and exceptional executive and general ability, all of which may be acquired by persistent effort, a truth which furnishes vast encouragement to the industrious and ambitious. His family is one of the well-known ones of the state, for his parents, William H. and Artineca (Riddle) Merriman, reared a family of fifteen children, five sons and ten daughters, of whom three sons and eight daughters respond to the roll call of residents of this prosperous state, and are established in homes of their own. Mr. Merriman is the second of these children, and was born in Douglas county, Ore., September 16, 1855, his father and grandfather, both named William H., being natives of the "state of Illinois, born near Springfield. The younger William H. was a farmer, blacksmith and wagon-maker, and in 1852 crossed the plains to Oregon, locating near Riddles, Douglas county. In 1856 he removed to Jackson county and located two miles north of Medford, purchasing one hundred and twenty acres of land from Jesse Robinson, upon which he farmed until his death in 1877, at the age of fifty-two years. He was an active Republican, and in religion was a member of the Baptist Church. His wife's family is perpetuated in Oregon in the town of Riddles, and her brothers, J. B., George W. and Stilley Riddle, are honored residents of this vicinity. Mrs. Merriman was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and in Illinois married John W. Chapman, who died in Illinois, after which his wife crossed the plains in the same train with her future husband, Mr. Merriman.

George Francis Merriman's zeal in promoting the cause of education is quite remarkable, considering the difficulties which hedged in his own opportunities in this direction. From earliest youth his ears became accustomed to the sound of industry emanating from his father's busy blacksmith shop, and he was put to work at an age when most boys are considering ways and means by which to keep away from school'. Not so this youth, however, for while his days were filled with serving an apprenticeship, begun in his fourteenth year, his evenings were spent in poring over books, and acquiring the knowledge denied him in the schools. After

completing his three years of compulsory service he continued a year more with his employer, and in 1874 went to eastern Oregon, and for two years worked in a blacksmith shop at Canyon City. For the following two years he ran a shop at Central Point, in the Rogue River valley, and in 1878 was employed as blacksmith by the Oregon & California Stage Company. In 1880 he began a four-years business in Oakland, and in 1884 located in Medford, where he has since continuously worked at his trade, with the exception of two and a half years. He does many kinds of wood work, wagon manufacturing and horse-shoeing, and so large is his trade that four men are required in the shop.

Mr. Merriman's services as a staunch Republican official have been of a high order, and demonstrate his breadth of mind and knowledge of municipal affairs. While not seeking recognition himself he has earnestly helped his deserving friends, and by no means confined himself to any one party in offering help. He has been a member of the city council one term, and was nominated for county sheriff in 1892, escaping election by only one hundred and eighty-seven votes in a county claiming five hundred Democratic majority. He was appointed postmaster of Medford January 17, 1900, and still holds the office, which is of the third class. Mr. Merriman finds recreation and friends in various fraternal organizations, among them Medford Lodge No. 103, A. F. & A. M.; Oregon Chapter No. 4, R. A. M., of Jacksonville ; Independent Order of Odd Fellows ; Knights of Pythias; Ancient Order United Workmen ; and Woodmen of the World. He is also identified with P. P. Prim Cabin Native Sons of Oregon, and Roseburg Lodge No. 326, B. P. O. E. In all possible ways he has forwarded the best interests of education, has been a member of the school board for many years, and is one of the promoters and directors of the Medford Business College, having succeeded in raising a large fund for its erection. Two miles east of Medford Mr. Merriman married Mary Murry, who was born in Illinois, and whose father, William Murry, emigrated from Scotland to Illinois, and from there to Oregon in 1874, locating on a farm near Medford. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Merriman, of whom William H. is deceased; Thomas is working in his father's shop; May is the assistant postmistress of Medford; George also is in his father's shop; and Blanch, Mollie, Vera, and Sherron C. are living at home." [Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon p. 887-8]

MERRIMAN, GEORGE F., of Medford, was born in Douglas County, Oregon, September 16, 1855. He is a blacksmith by occupation, having pursued it for twelve years in Medford. He was a member of the Douglas County convention in 1880 and 1882, and the Jackson County convention in 1886, 1890 and 1894, and of the state convention in 1894. In 1892 he received the nomination for Sheriff. In 1894 he was secretary of the McKinley Club, and a member and secretary of the county central committee.

[Republican League Register p. 245]

"GEORGE FRANCIS MERRIMAN, who is one of the most public spirited men of Medford and ex-postmaster of that city, is conducting on a large scale a successful wagon, carriage and horseshoeing establishment, employing a number of men in his business. He is greatly interested in educational matters and is one of the leading citizens of the town. He was born in Douglas county, Oregon, September 6, 1855, a son of William H. and Artineca (Riddle) Merriman. The father, who was born near Springfield, Illinois, was by trade a blacksmith and wagon maker, as well as an agriculturist. In 1852 he crossed the plains to Oregon, locating near Riddle, Douglas county, a town named in honor of the Riddle family. He removed in 1856 to Jackson county, settling two miles north of Medford, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land upon which he lived and engaged in active agricultural pursuits, until shortly prior to his death in 1877, passing away at the age of fifty-two years. He was a republican in politics, a Baptist in religious faith and was one of the most estimable citizens of the communities in which he resided. The mother was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and was married in Illinois to John W. Chapman, who died in that state. After his death she crossed the plains in the same train in which her future husband, Mr. Merriman, traveled.

George F. Merriman, the second child in a family of fifteen born to his parents, received a common-school education, but having a great craving for knowledge he studied at home long after his school days were over and has throughout his lifetime been greatly interested in educational affairs, giving a great deal of attention to the forwarding of that cause. At an early age he commenced working in his father's shop where he learned the blacksmithing trade. After completing his three years of apprenticeship he remained one more year in the shop, then in 1874 went to eastern Oregon where for two years he worked at his trade at Canyon City. During the following two years he conducted a shop at Central point, in Jackson county, in the Rogue river valley, and in 1878 was employed as a blacksmith by the Oregon & California Stage Company. In 1880 he went to Oakland, where he was in business for four years, after which he settled in Medford where with the exception of two and a half years he has lived continuously. He

has a modern and well equipped shop where several men are constantly employed, the business being that of wood working, horseshoeing and wagon manufacturing.

Mr. Merriman chose as his life companion and helpmate Mary Murray, a native of Illinois whose father, James Murray, emigrated from Scotland, settling in Illinois, and later came to Oregon in 1874, where he settled on a farm near Medford. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Merriman, but one, William H., is now deceased, The others are Thomas, May, George, Blanche, Mollie, Vera and Sharron C.

Mr. Merriman in his political views is a republican and has taken an active interest in the affairs of the State, he has been a member of the Medford city council and in 1892 received the Domination for Sheriff but was defeated by a small majority. He was appointed postmaster of Medford January 17, 1900 and held that position for several years. He is a member of the Masonic body,

belonging to Lodge No. 103, F. M. and A. M., and Oregon Chapter, No. 4. R. A. M., of Jacksonville. He is also affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Woodmen of the World. He belongs also to Primo Cabin, Native Sons of Oregon, and to the Roseburg Lodge, No 326 B. P. O. E. There are few men of Medford who can conscientiously lay claim to being more valuable or active citizens of their town than Mr. Merriman. Being one of the sons of the early days of Oregon, he has passed his entire career thus far in the State of his nativity and has witnessed the rescuing of the commonwealth from the primitive conditions of the wilderness, and at all times has been identified with this state's settlement and development. He has sought not alone his own good but also that of the public, having been a loyal citizen and an earnest and conscientious home builder. His business life has been characterized by careful attention to the details of his affairs and his efforts have been so well directed that he has built up an extensive trade." [Centennial History of Oregon by Joseph Gaston Vol 2 p. 956-7]

George F. Merriman mentioned in "Early Oregon Cabinet Makers, furniture manufacturers, carpenters, Blacksmiths and Wagon Builders 1836-1897" by Mrs. Beulah Hurst and Mrs. B.M. Carstairs

MEDFORD PIONEER AT REST

**George H. Merriman Is Survived by
Mother Who Is 85.**

MEDFORD, Or., Nov. 13.—(Special.)
—George H. Merriman, the pioneer

"village blacksmith" of Jackson County, former postmaster, died suddenly Saturday night and the funeral was held this week.

Mr. Merriman was 60 years-old, having been born September 16, 1855, in Douglas County, Oregon, coming to the Rogue River Valley with his parents when 2 years of age. Mr. Merriman for many years prior to the coming of the railroad was official horseshoer for the Government between Roseburg and Redding, Cal. Mr. Merriman was a staunch Republican and a friend of Governor Withycombe, the Governor always calling upon him when in Medford. He was appointed postmaster by President McKinley, but refused reappointment.

Mr. Merriman was the son of William H. and Mrs. Artie Merriman, pioneers of 1831. Mrs. Merriman survives her son, having recently celebrated her 85th birthday. In 1877 Mr. Merriman married Miss Mary E. Murray. Seven children survive, Thomas T., George H.,

Jr., Sharon C., Mrs. Robert W. Telfer, Mrs. Claude Miles, Miss Mollie and Miss Vera Merriman.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Sunday, November 14, 1915 Section I p. 8]

iii. Laura Alice Merriman

b. 08 Jul 1857 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 24 Nov 1938 District of Columbia

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 23 Nov 1876 Jackson County, Oregon

Jay Bradley

b. 11 Jan 1852 Wapello County, Iowa

d. 25 Oct 1893 Jackson County, Oregon

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

"Laura A. Bradley Called By Death--Noted Oregonian Victim in Washington, D. C.

Washington, Nov. 24--Mrs. Laura A. Bradley, 81, widow of Jay Bradley, formerly of Oregon and Wyoming, died here Thursday.

Mrs. Bradley had resided here with her daughter, Mrs. Basil Manly, for more than 25 years and was deeply interested in civic affairs.

Her parents, William H. Merriman and Artinice Riddle Merriman, were among early settlers of southern Oregon. She was born at Jacksonville, Or., and lived for

many years in Medford, Eugene and Portland.

She is survived by two sons, Lawson G. Bradley, Medford, Or., and Otto F. Bradley, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Manly, and two grandchildren, Mrs. Walter O. Briggs Jr., Detroit, and Miss Jean Bradley, Portland, Or. She also is survived by her brother, William Merriman, Oakland, Cal., and sisters, Mrs. Joseph Hill and Mrs. John Beck, Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Isabella Fronk, Portland, and Mrs. Marie Bennett, Medford." [Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, November 25, 1938]

iv. Marie Elizabeth Merriman

b. 09 Dec 1858 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 05 Jul 1943 Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Eastwood IOOF Cemetery, Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 23 Nov 1881 Jackson County, Oregon

Samuel Louis Bennett

b. 12 Aug 1846 Pike County, Missouri

d. 18 Apr 1924 Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Eastwood IOOF Cemetery, Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

"Marie Elisabeth Bennett, Central Point pioneer, died at a local hospital yesterday after a brief illness. Mrs. Bennett, whose parents were Artinecia Riddle Merriman and William H. Merriman, was born on the old Merriman ranch near Central Point, December 9, 1858, and had lived in Jackson County her entire life. She was the fourth of a family of 15 children.

As a child Mrs. Bennett attended school in a little country schoolhouse near what is now known as Beall Lane and later attended the old Ashland academy and college, the only institution of higher learning in the valley. She became a teacher at the age of 17 and continued in this occupation until her marriage to the late Samuel L. Bennett in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett located on the old Butler donation land claim, one mile north of the present city of Medford, and lived there until Mr. Bennett retired from active work in 1908 when the family moved to Medford.

The Bennetts had three children, Mrs. Laura Merriman Loder, Mrs. Artinecia Marie Swingle and the late S. Louis Bennett. Mr. Bennett passed away in 1923 [sic 1924] and Mrs. Bennett continued to live in Medford until 1932 when she went to Trail to make her home with Mrs. Swingle. The deceased was a charter member of the First Baptist church of Medford.

In addition to the two daughters, Mrs. F. F. Loder of Willows, Calif., and Mrs. Swingle of Trail, Mrs. Bennett is survived by two sisters, Mrs. J. C. Hill, Seattle, and Mrs. Isabelle Fronk, Portland, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at the Perl Funeral home Wednesday at 2:30 p. m.
with the Rev. D. D. Randall officiating. Interment will be in the I.O.O.F. cemetery
in Medford." [Medford Mail Tribune, Medford, Oregon, July 6, 1943]

v. Anna Adelaide Merriman

b. 28 Mar 1860 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 16 May 1935 Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Siskiyou Memorial Park, Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 23 Nov 1881 Jackson County, Oregon

Joseph Cicero Clark

b. 28 Sep 1858 Missouri

d.

vi. Isaac Albert Merriman

b. 11 Sep 1861 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 18 Dec 1922 Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 27 Apr 1887 Jackson County, Oregon

Emma L. Bellinger

b. 10 May 1868 Jackson County, Oregon

d. 15 Jun 1950 Lake County, California

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

ISAAC MERRIMAN DEAD

Jackson County Native Son Is
Victim of Heart Disease.

MEDFORD, Or., Dec. 18.—(Special.)—Following the sudden death last Saturday of Elmo Neil, 42, pioneer stockman of this section, who resided near Ashland, the second well-known Jackson county man and native son of this county to die from heart disease was Isaac Merriman, more than 62 years old, of Medford, who, while at work chopping wood along Bear creek, fell over dead this morning. Each man was from a well-known pioneer family of this county.

Mr. Merriman leaves his widow and four sons, and had been a member of the Medford Oddfellows' lodge for 33 years.

Neil is survived by his widow. He was born on the farm where he resided all his life.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, December 19, 1922 p. 20]

vii. Charles Harrison Merriman

b. 29 Mar 1863 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 19 Sep 1865 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m. Never married

viii. Mary Bell Merriman

b. 05 Aug 1864 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 23 Jul 1926 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. 1886

Joseph G. Huston

b. 1861

d. 24 Nov 1930 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

ix. Walter Thomas Merriman

b. 26 Feb 1866 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 15 May 1866 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m. Never married

x. Isabel Merriman

b. 28 Jul 1867 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 19 Dec 1953 Multnomah County, Oregon

buried Riverside Cemetery, Albany, Linn County, Oregon

m.

Charles K. Fronk

b. 1856

d. 1918

buried Riverside Cemetery, Albany, Linn County, Oregon

s/o John M. Fronk and Mary E. Brown

FRONK—Dec. 19, Mrs. Isabelle, late of 2610 NE Hancock st. Mother of Mr. Earl M. Fronk, Portland, and Charles K. Fronk, United States army; sister of Effie N. Hill, Seattle, Wash.; 3 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren. Funeral services Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 11:30 am, in the Drawing Room Chapel of the COLONIAL MORTUARY, Sandy blvd. at 14th. Interment Riverside cemetery, Albany, Or. EA 4111.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Monday, December 21, 1953 p. 21]

xi. Prudence Merriman

b. Nov 1868 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 30 Dec 1870 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m. Never married

xii. Effie "Bessie" Merriman

b. 25 Mar 1870 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 07 Feb 1960 Seattle, King County, Washington

buried Acacia Memorial Park, Lake Forest Park, King County, Washington

m. 28 Sep 1887

John H. Bellinger

b. 04 Feb 1866

d. 14 Dec 1918

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m2. c1920

Joseph Crosby Hill

b. 16 Oct 1866 Cache County, Utah

d. 28 Feb 1945 Seattle, King County, Washington

buried Acacia Memorial Park, Lake Forest Park, King County, Washington

HILL—Effie M. (Bessie), Feb. 7, at Masonic Home Zenith (formerly of 1004 Bailey St.), age 89 years. Step-mother of J. Chester Hill; aunt of Mrs. William Glazier. Member of Home Chapter No. 193, O. E. S. Services Thursday, 2 p. m., Chapel of Georgetown Funeral Home.

[Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Tuesday, February 9, 1960 p. 30]

xiii. Josephine Marjorie Merriman

b. 24 Jun 1871 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 06 Jan 1940 Seattle, King County, Washington

m.

John Beek

b.

d. aft 1940

MRS. JOHN BEEK

Funeral services for Mrs. Josephine M. Beek, 68 years old, who died yesterday, will be held at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon at the Home Undertaking Company, followed by cremation. Mrs. Beek was born in Medford, Or. She resided at 2276 E. 60th St. She was a member of the Daughters of Pioneers of Washington and of University Baptist Church. Surviving are the husband, John; a daughter, Mrs. Helen Langtry of Seattle; a son, John Beek, Jr., of Washington, D. C.; three sisters, Mrs. Maria Bennett, Medford; Mrs. Isabelle Fronk, Portland, Or., and Mrs. J. C. Hill, Seattle, and a brother, Will Merriman, Oakland, Calif.

[Seattle Sunday Times, Seattle, Washington, January 7, 1940 p.30]

xiv. William Harrison Merriman

b. 07 Jun 1872 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 28 May 1942 Berkeley, Alameda County, California

m1. 29 Jul 1894 Jackson County, Oregon

Rose M. Luy

b. 1875

d. 20 Jan 1932 Alameda County, California

m2. 1935

Minnie Mae Stephens

b. 31 Dec 1899 Arkansas

d. 17 Jan 1994 San Diego County, California

xv. Winnefred "Winnie" Merriman

b. 30 Nov 1874 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 14 Jan 1875 Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

buried Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m. Never married

3. Isabella Riddle [emigrant of 1851]

b. 18 Feb 1834 Logan County, Ohio

d. 13 May 1892 Cow Creek Valley, Douglas County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m.

Isreal Boyd Nichols

b. 22 Sep 1824 Muskingum County, Ohio

d. 28 May 1893 Salem, Marion County, Oregon OSH

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

4. William Hamilton Riddle Jr. [emigrant of 1851]

b. Mar 1836 Logan County, Ohio

d. 10 Jul 1857 Douglas County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m. Never married

5. George Washington Riddle [emigrant of 1851]

b. 14 Dec 1839 Sangamon County, Illinois

d. 22 Sep 1927 Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon
buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m1.

Anna Minerva Rice

b. 22 Apr 1847 Putnam County, Illinois

d. 19 Sep 1876 Douglas County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m2.

Helen Gazley

b. 26 Dec 1855 Douglas County, Oregon

d. 10 Jul 1936 Columbia County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

d/o James Franklin Gazley and Adeline E. Adams [Pioneers to CA 1849 to OR 1851]

m1. William E. Stewart

"GEORGE W. RIDDLE has followed diversified occupations and at one time was county judge of Douglas county. Ore. To him belongs the distinction of introducing into Douglas county the first steam dryers for evaporating fruit, and he is today one of the most extensive lumbermen and ranchers in Azalea, Ore. Mr. Riddle was born near Springfield, Iowa, December 14, 1839. He is a son of William H. and Maxmilla (Bousman) Riddle, the former a Kentuckian by birth and the latter an Ohioan. William H. Riddle was born in 1805, and while he was very small his parents moved to Ohio, where his father filled an early grave. When grown to manhood, he learned the blacksmith's trade, and was married to Maxmilla Bousman, a native of Ohio, and in 1836 located in Illinois, where he followed his trade in connection with farming until 1851. He then began the tedious journey across the plains, by means of ox-teams, and the trip overland to Oregon was made under the escort of Capt. Cornelius Hill. After a six months journey they at last reached Douglas county, where Mr. Riddle took up a donation claim of three hundred and sixty acres in Cow Creek valley. They were the first settlers in that locality, and it was ten miles to the nearest house. There he and his wife spent their closing years, and Mr. Riddle took quite an active part in politics, being a Republican. At that time the only Indian fighting to be done was to serve as escort to General Alvord and to protect the homes of settlers. The mother died at the age of fifty, but the father lived to the advanced age of eighty-four years.

George W. Riddle received his mental training in the public schools and one term at Wilbur Academy, at Wilbur, Douglas county, Ore., and participated in the Rogue river Indian wars of 1855-'56. He was a member of Capt. Edward Sheffield's company of volunteers, employed as interpreter and scout. In 1861 he responded to our country's call for men and enlisted in Company C, First Oregon Cavalry, and was mustered into service at Camp Baker, Jackson county. He entered the service as sergeant of his company and served three years. He was located mostly at Fort Klamath, and during his service there he, with two other men, accompanied J. T. P. Huntington, superintendent of Indian affairs, to the Modoc country, where a pow-wow was held with the Modocs, preliminary

to making a treaty. All the Modoc chiefs were present, including old Scouchin, Capt. Jack, Shack Nasty Jim and others who become famous in the Modoc war and lava-bed massacres. Mr. Riddle was also present when the treaty was finally made, near Fort Klamath, with the Klamath, Modoc, Piute and Pitt River Indians. In 1866 he returned home, after having been mustered out of service at Vancouver, Wash.

Mr. Riddle was united in marriage with Anna M. Rice, of Oregon, and they went to housekeeping four and a half miles south of Riddles. Four children blessed their union, as follows: Mrs. Delia Quine, still residing near Azalea : Clara H., postmistress of Riddles; George R., of Grants Pass, and Ethel L., who continues to reside with her father. The mother of these children died about ten years after her marriage, and some time later Mr. Riddle married for his second wife Helen Gazley, also a native of Oregon. This marriage resulted in the birth of two children—Mrs. Audrev Langlois, whose husband is the Tillamook lighthouse keeper on the Columbia river, and Norbert G., who resides at home.

For years Mr. Riddle followed stock-raising. He subsequently followed mercantile pursuits at Grants Pass, Glendale, Canyonville and at Riddles, covering a period of twelve years. He was elected a member of the state legislature in 1872 and was re-elected in 1874, 1885 and 1897. In 1890 he ran for county judge of Douglas county, was elected and served one term, making an admirable judge. In 1897 he was one of the commissioners appointed by the state to go to Washington to intercede for pensioning Indian war veterans, the state appropriating \$2,000 toward the cause. At the present time he is serving on the board of directors of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, with headquarters at Portland. Since moving to Azalea Mr. Riddle is extensively engaged in the timber business in connection with conducting a ranch. He has the largest fruit evaporator in Douglas county, and operates it quite successfully. Fraternally he is allied with the Masons, being a charter member of his lodge; the Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Riddle's career has been highly successful, and he is one of the substantial and influential citizens of his section. Like his father, he is a Republican." [Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon p. 516-7]

6. Abner Riddle [emigrant of 1851]

b. 29 Oct 1842 Sangamon County, Illinois

d. 07 Oct 1926 Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m. 31 Dec 1865 Douglas County, Oregon

Alice Cary Rice

b. 21 Oct 1849 Illinois

d. 25 Apr 1903 Douglas County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

"Abner Riddle: lives in Riddle; is a farmer; came to state and county in 1851; was born October 29, 1841, in Sangamon county. Ill.; was married December 31, 1865, to Alice Rice." [History of Southern Oregon by A.G. Walling p. 515]

"ABNER RIDDLE, prominent in agricultural circles in Douglas county, where he owns and operates extensive ranches and prune orchards, is one of the earliest settlers in the state of Oregon, where he has been located since 1851. He was born in Illinois, October 29, 1841, a son of William H. and Maximilla Riddle, both natives of Ohio, who came to Illinois after their marriage and in 1851 crossed the plains to Oregon with ox teams. They came in the party of which Captain Hill had charge and spent six months upon the journey. They located in Cow Creek valley, where the father took up a donation claim of three hundred and twenty acres and lived upon his holdings until the time of his death. He was the father of ten children, six of whom are still living.

Abner Riddle came to Oregon with his parents in 1851. He was living in this state at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war and enlisted in Company C. First Oregon Cavalry, on January 10, 1861, and served four years, receiving his honorable discharge at Vancouver in January, 1865. He returned to Douglas county and settled on the farm where he now lives. He gradually added to his holdings until he had three hundred and seventy-five acres but has sold and given to his family all but one hundred and thirty-seven acres of land, mostly under cultivation as prune orchards. He has always been intensely interested in the scientific development of agriculture and never allows any new discovery along this line to escape his attention. His prune orchards are among the most valuable in Douglas county and his harvest increases every year.

In January, 1866, Abner Riddle was united in marriage to Miss Alice C. Rice, a daughter of Harrison Rice, who came to Oregon from Illinois at an early date and died in this state. To Mr. Riddle and his wife were born six children: Ernest D. ; Maud A., who is the wife of Louis Grant, the postmaster of Riddle; Grace I., who married O. V. Logston; Blanche A., who is a school teacher; Claude A., at home; and Lena, a high-school graduate, who is yet under the parental roof. Mrs. Abner Riddle died in 1903.

Abner Riddle has always voted the republican ticket and has been actively interested in the political affairs of his district all during his life. He served two terms as county commissioner and was a member of the school board for many years. He is a devout adherent of the Baptist church and is one of the trustees of that institution. He has been prominently connected with the development of his section for many years and is the brother of John B. Riddle, from whom the town of Riddle received its name. The fruit ranches and stock farms of Douglas county are among the most important sources of its wealth and Abner Riddle has been a prominent figure in their development for many years." [Centennial History of Oregon by Joseph Gaston Vol III p. 400-3]

7. John Bousman Riddle [emigrant of 1851]

b. 09 Nov 1844 Sangamon County, Illinois

d. 11 Oct 1914 Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m1.

Jennie A. Feathers

b. 29 Aug 1846 Lafayette County Wisconsin

d. 13 Nov 1865 Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon
buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m2.

Mary Francis Catching

b. 05 Apr 1852 Douglas County, Oregon

d. 23 Oct 1923 Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

d/o John Samuel Catching and Margaret Wilson

"J. B. RIDDLE. Emerson ranks the quality of proficiency as highest in the influences which make for success. He says that if a man can do any one thing well, be it preach a sermon or make a mouse trap, though he build his house in the wilderness, the world will make a beaten path to his door. J. B. Riddle has done even better than this. He has built a town; and with what success, the thriving and prosperous city of Riddle is ample evidence. He is today one of the foremost men in the city which bears his name and actively interested in all lines of commercial development. He is a native of Sangamon county, Illinois, where his birth occurred November 9, 1844. His parents were William and Maxamilia Riddle, both natives of Ohio, who settled in Illinois soon after their marriage and in 1851 crossed the plains with ox teams. The journey took about six months to accomplish and after many hardships they located in Cow creek valley, Oregon, where the father took up a donation claim of three hundred and twenty acres and lived upon his land until his death. The mother died in 1868.

J. B. Riddle was only seven years of age when his parents left Illinois for Oregon. His father had the distinction of being the first white man to settle in Cow creek valley and here his son was reared among the Indians. The schooling facilities of the district were extremely inadequate and J.B. Riddle's only instruction was that gained in a little log cabin schoolhouse with a dirt floor and slab benches. When he was nineteen years old he bought a farm in the region where he lived from J. C. Vandenbauch, who had come into the valley shortly after the Riddle family settled there. J. B. Riddle and his brother, Abner, became owners at this time of a half section of the valley farm lands and on this location the town of Riddle now stands. When the railroad was built through, J. B. Riddle followed the line of construction, conducting small eating houses along the way. When he reached Medford he opened the Nash hotel, the first institution of this kind in the city. This he conducted for three years and then returned to Riddle, where he built the first hotel in that city, he remained in active operation of this enterprise for twenty years but recently leased it to his son-in-law, D. W. Crosby, who is now its proprietor.

There is no line of activity in the city of Riddle in which our subject has not been active at some period of his career. He was one of the organizers of the Riddle State Bank and was elected president at the time it was founded in 1910. He has erected many of its finest buildings and has had a share in the organization of most of its business enterprises, he has seen its development from a wholly unimproved section of land to a rapidly growing and prosperous city. He owns today a large quantity of valuable real estate in the business and residence sections of Riddle and is always keenly alive to the needs and advancement of his home town.

J. B. Riddle has been twice married. His first union occurred when he was nineteen years of age. At this time he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Feathers, a daughter of William Feathers, a Baptist minister who came to Cow creek valley from California in 1863. She was drowned while fording the Umpqua river in 1865 and her nine months old child met death at the same time. Two years later, in 1867, John Riddle was again married. His second wife was Miss Mary Frances Catching, who was the first white child born in this section of the State of Oregon. Her birth occurred in Cow creek valley in 1852. Her father, John Catching, having come to Oregon from Missouri in 1845. He was one of the earliest settlers in northwestern America. He first located on the Tualitin plains in Washington county but joined the California gold seekers in 1849. He later returned and located in the Cow creek valley, where his daughter was born. To Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Riddle have been born seven children, five of whom are still living: Jennie, who married D. W. Crosby of Riddle. Oregon; Millie, the wife of Charles Stauffer, of the same city; Frances, now Mrs. George Frater, who resides in Riddle; Ira B., who is a court reporter at Roseburg, Oregon; and Edward, now in business in Riddle. Our subject and his family are now living in one of the most beautiful private homes in Douglas county. The residence was built by J. B. Riddle when he gave up his active management of the Riddle Hotel. The house stands in the midst of one hundred and sixty acres of beautifully kept land adjoining the city. Here Mr. Riddle is giving most of his time and attention to overseeing and operating his extensive fruit ranch.

J. B. Riddle has always been a republican in his political views and served for several years as mayor of his city, he devotes a great deal of his time to the commercial development of the town which he founded, and takes an intelligent interest in national and local politics. Fraternally he is a member of Riddle Lodge, F. & A. M., and of the Umpqua Chapter, No. 11, R. A. M. of Roseburg. He is a Knight of Pythias and is a prominent member of the Roseburg lodge of that organization and active in the affairs of Roseburg Lodge, No. 326, B. P. O. E., of which he is a charter member. J. B. Riddle is the foremost man in his city today, he has promoted its industries, spread its business, erected many of its buildings and has developed and improved its municipal life. He has done his work well and the pathway to his door is beaten and trampled by the eager footsteps of his many friends." [Centennial History of Oregon by Joseph Gaston Vol IV p. 426-9]

8. Anna Maria Riddle [emigrant of 1851]

b. 19 Apr 1847 Sangamon County, Illinois

d. 20 Mar 1924 Medford, Jackson County, Oregon

9. Tobias Stilley Riddle [emigrant of 1851]

b. 30 Aug 1849 Sangamon County, Illinois

d. 21 Feb 1933 Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m1. 02 Feb 1868 Douglas County, Oregon

Sarah L. Smythe

b. 1851 Missouri

d. 25 Oct 1890 Salem, Marion County, Oregon
buried Riddle Cemetery, Riddle, Douglas County, Oregon

m2. c1893

Almarine Chapman

b. 24 Feb 1852 Johnson County, Iowa

d. 29 Oct 1927 Cody, Wyoming

"Tobias Stilley Riddle--Was born in Illinois, August 31, 1849, and when but a few years of age, was brought by his parents across the plains to Oregon. Arriving in Douglas county early in 1852, Mr. Riddle's parents there located on the property they now own, near the town that bears his family name, "Riddle." Our subject remained under the paternal roof until the age of sixteen years. He then started out to do for himself. At that early age he began the stock business and laid the foundation for his present success. At the age of eighteen Mr. Riddle was united in marriage to Miss S. Smith, a daughter of George C. Smith, an old resident of Eugene, and later a resident of Myrtle Creek, Douglas county. (Mr. Smith and his son John met their death while engaged in the stock business in Happy valley, Stein mountain, at the hands of the Bannock Indians.) From small beginnings Mr. Riddle has built up a large and profitable stock business -- his field of operation now extending all over Southern Oregon. He also owns a valuable farm in Cow creek canyon, consisting of 440 acres, and a beautiful residence in Canyonville where he now resides, a view of which will be found in this history. Mr. Riddle has a family of six children, whose names are: Carrie L., Walter C., Fred, Eva, Benjamin and Presley." [History of Southern Oregon p. 539]

10. Clara Allie Riddle

b. 08 Apr 1853 Cow Creek Valley, Douglas County, Oregon

d. 10 Oct 1855 Cow Creek Valley, Douglas County, Oregon

m. Never married