
Dora Baer

Baer Family History Brochures

- George Baer Family: Federal Census (Brochure 13)
- George Baer: President of Three Pines School Board (Brochure 14A)
- Mrs Baer of Hugo Traveled In Early Times (Brochure 14B)

Mrs Baer of Hugo Traveled In Early Times

The following is Mrs. Baer's story as told by her.²

My mother, Mrs. Sarah Hagsdale, crossed the plains in 1850, arriving after one year of travel at Eugene, coming later on to Jackson county with her parents.

My father, Albert Bethel, came to San Francisco in the "Days of '49" when there was nothing but miners and the miner's home, a tent. Later on he came to Jacksonville, where he and my mother first met and where they were married at the "Old Kalor place" just across the bridge at Tolo, in 1857.

In 1859, July 29 I was born. Our temporary home then was the Penniger place, on which stood a dovetailed log house, until recently a landmark along the Pacific highway going to Medford. Last year this old home was destroyed by fire.

Later on we moved to Evans Creek, now the city of Rogue River, where my father kept the ferry and "Road House." In 1862 came the flood when the town of Rogue River was under water, many losing their home and their lives. Afterwards my father sold out and moved to Idaho.

We had three families of us together; three wagons with four horses to each wagon. We landed after days of travel at Steamboat Gulch, Idaho, where a mining boom was then on, afterward returning to The Dalles, Ore., where father bought the "Temperance Hotel." That first winter saw the Columbia river frozen over with many pack trains and covered wagons traveling over the ice.

The George & Dora Baer Family, Hugo Settlers: ca.,1910 - 1945

Later we moved to a place 12 miles from Umatilla, where the father kept the "Twelve Mile House" and supplied miners on the pack trail to the mines and other camps.

Afterwards again we moved to Tuscon, Arizona, where my father joined his brother in the mines. Here he became sick from the effects of drinking the alkali water on the plains, and died from the poisoning.

Mother was left with five children. She hired a man and wagon and brought us to Portland, then back again to Rogue River, where her parents' brothers and sisters then were living. Those now have all passed away.

Mother then took up a piece of land, the neighbors all turning out and helping to build a new home. Later she married Chris Weiss, a butcher at Rock Point. To them were born three children, all living now at Los Angeles, Calif.

Rock Point then was composed of Chris Weiss' butcher shop, L. G. White Hotel, J. B. White Grocery store, Able Schultz's black smith shop, Dave Sexton's toll bridge, and the first school, church and Sunday.

We lived there during the "Modock War". I remember when two Indians, "Scarface Charley" and "One Eyed Mose" went to the Willamette valley for supplies, they told us, but when they returned with their pack horses loaded we found out they had gone for supplies of guns, ammunition, etc. to carry on this same war. During this time a schoolmate of mine, Frank Trimble, was killed by the Indians, a time I will never forget.

About the same time placer mines were booming all through southern Oregon. I can recall the times when a gold pan of gold dust and nuggets was a common sight and I am hoping I can live to see the "white metal of today" turning out in like quantity.

Dora's Close Call

A friend of mother's from Red Bluff, Cal., took me home with them to go to school. On our way there on the "Old Stage Coach" everything went well until we reached the last station at Redding, Cal. I was sitting on the east by the driver and had dozed to sleep, when all at once the stage quit rocking and someone shouted to halt. The driver said for me to drop down in the boot of the stage. A shot was fired and I received the charge in my back. This same stage carried a load of rich Jew merchants going to San Francisco to buy a cargo of merchandise. The horses ran away and the treasure was not stolen by the hold-ups. I knew no more until I was taken to the doctor at Red Bluff, where the shot were removed, there being about fifteen in all.

My step-father came and brought me home where I was ill for weeks and was so shaky I could not feed myself. My doctor bill and stage fare were paid by the stage company and the driver received a purse of \$200 in gold as a reward for his bravery in saving the cargo.

All those little incidents are still as clear to me as the days of their happening and many of my old friend pioneers have passed to the great beyond, where we hope to meet and part no more.

1943 - 45 George E. Baer passed March 16, 1943 in Josephine County, Oregon. Dora Baer passed July 6, 1945 in Josephine County, Oregon.³ They are both buried in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's history and land use.

1. Metsker, Chas. F. *1932 Metsker Map. Josephine County, Oregon.* Portland, OR.

2. The Daily Courier. 1927. *Mrs Baer of Hugo Traveled In Early Times.* Section 4, Page 4. Grants Pass, OR.

3. Oregon Death Index, 1903-98.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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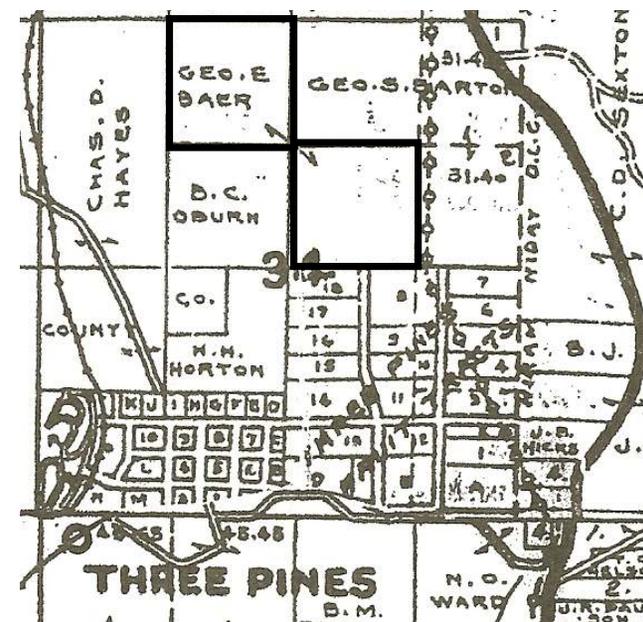
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MRS. BAER OF HUGO TRAVELED IN EARLY TIMES

Brochure 14B Of Hugo's Early
Settler Brochure Series



George Baer's Hugo Farm: 1932
Metsker Base Map¹

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Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society