
David Sexton, Indian Fighter

Captain Lamerick David H. Sexton was born on July 17, 1828 in New York. He crossed the plains arriving in the Willamette Valley in October of 1847. In the spring of 1852, David Sexton moved to Jacksonville, Oregon. The next year he joined a company of volunteers under the command of United States Army Captain Lamerick to protect settlers against the Indians who had gone on the war path. On August 12, 1853 he fought the Indians at the mouth of Williams Creek on the Applegate River.¹

Volunteers at Jacksonville Charles D. Sexton, future son of David's, later wrote:

“In this fight two men were killed and Lieutenant Griffin was badly wounded but fortunately my father, David H. Sexton, was un wounded, although he had three bullet holes through his clothing. This was the last active fighting in which he was engaged during that year.

In 1855 he again joined the Volunteers at Jacksonville, and started down the Rogue River. The first place they reached where the Indians had done any killing was the Jones Place, above where Grant's Pass is now situated. They found Jones had been murdered, and his wife was mortally wounded. She died shortly after they had rescued her.

Having buried Jones and his wife, they hurried on to the Harris place. The Harris family consisted of Mr. Harris, his wife, one daughter named Sophia and one son, David, also a hired man by the name of Reed. When the Indians had arrived there Mr. Harris was shaving shingles near the house. When he saw them he started to go into the house, but just as he got to the door the Indians shot him, and also wounded his daughter, Sophia, in the shoulder. Mrs. Harris and the wounded daughter pulled Harris into the house and fastened the door. Harris said to his wife, “I am mortally wounded. Get the guns and sell your life as dearly as possible....”²

Indian Wars

Harris Mr. Harris died that day on October 9, 1855. Mary Harris and her daughter were later rescued by the volunteers but the hired man and her son were never found.

Haines “The Volunteers next went to the Haines home, which was located about where the townsite of Merlin is now. The Haines family consisted of Mr. Haines, his wife, and four little boys, and one girl named Mary, who was about twelve years of age. When the Volunteers got to the Haines farm they beheld a sight never to be forgotten even

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by the bravest of men..... When my father beheld this sight he turned to his captain and said. “Captain, I have been on the frontier a long time, I have seen some hard sights, but I believe that this is the worst sight I have ever seen. Haines and I were friends, I promise his dead body I will get revenge out of the Indians.”³

Takelma Indians David would fight many battles in the Jumpoff Joe Creek region lasting up until 1857 when the Takelma Indians were forced onto the reservations.

During this period the early pioneers and the Takelma Indians, commonly known as the Rogue River Indians, were at great odds resulting in much bloodshed on both sides. The bloody Rogue River Wars of the 1850's reduced the Takelmas from 9,500 to 2,000 in six years.

1. & 4. Sexton Family History In Hugo, Oregon. Essay written for the Hugo Neighborhood on June 5, 2004 by Karen Rose.

2. & 3. A Few Notes of the Life of David H. Sexton, A Pioneer of 1847 by Charles D. Sexton.

Caroline & David Sexton

Caroline & David In 1857, Caroline Niday (Stumbo) married David H. Sexton whom she had met during the Rogue River Indian Wars. He joined Caroline on her farm which was the Niday donation land claim of 321 acres which her late husband Hiram had obtained in the spring of 1853.⁴

This donation land claim is located in the Hugo area bordered by Oxyoke Road, Monument Drive, Hugo Road and Interstate 5. At one corner of the property is the junction of the old 1850's Willamette Road to Jacksonville and the Road to Illinois Valley via Vannoy's Ferry. Previously, this route was used by the 1846 emigrants following the newly opened Applegate Trail or South Road.

David and Caroline became leaders in their community. David applied for a new post office to be named the Lucky Queen Post Office in December 1876. In the ensuing years, they acquired some mining claims and mining properties on or near Jumpoff Joe Creek along with other properties located in the Hugo area.

On April 13, 1892, they donated two acres of land to School District #22 so that a school could be built. Land was also donated so that a church would be built.

David Sexton died on February 3, 1908 at the age of 80. He is buried in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery along with his wife, Caroline who died in 1911.

More information Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's land use, and/or history projects.

Readers wanting to read the essays that Charles D. Sexton wrote about both this father and mother can find them on our web site.

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 by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, as 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. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer.

Hugo Neighborhood Association

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DAVID SEXTON, INDIAN FIGHTER: 1853 - 1856



Brochure 16 in
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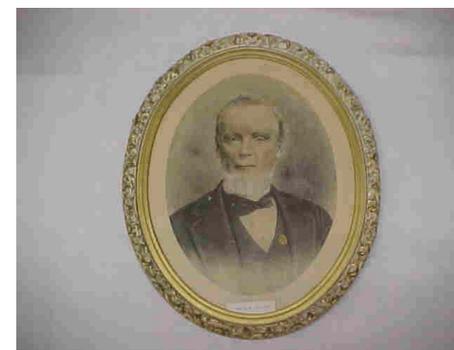
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David Sexton
Courtesy of Kerbyville Museum

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