

# DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

## CEMETERY RECORDS

### BOOK 15

#### Day Creek, Tiller and Drew Area Cemeteries

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by

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## DAYS CREEK – TILLER – DREW AREA CEMETERIES

### LAVADOURE CEMETERY

T30S R3W S29 Tax Lot 600

Located six miles east of Days Creek on the Tiller-Trail Highway at Box 17802, the former property of Ray Wright and his wife Esther. Turn left from the highway onto a gravel road for .3 mile to the cemetery road on the left fork. The fenced cemetery is on a knoll overlooking the beautiful South Umpqua River and surrounding mountains. It consists of an older fenced area to the west and a newer chain link fenced area to the east.

The cemetery was getting overgrown with blackberry vines which had to be cut away to locate stones. Many markers are rounded field stones or old metal markers which are losing or have already lost their names and dates. One grave of interest is that of Mark Giles, a logger who lost his life in the nearby Bland Mt. fire in 1987, whose headstone lies in the more newly fenced area.

While the cemetery bears the name Lavadoure for the nearby creek, the property was originally occupied by the family of Alexander Dumont who left his birth place in Michigan and traveled to Oregon, being involved in scouting and trapping. His wife was Josephine Finlay, a member of Dr. John McLoughlin's household. In 1852 they first settled on Donation Land Claim No. 46 near Days Creek. Dumont, along with Isaac Boyle did much of the scouting during the Indian uprisings. Around 1860 Dumont traded his land for that of Leonard Stenger east of Lavadoure Creek. Here the Dumonts raised their fifteen children, many of whom married into families of French-Canadian ancestry. We are lucky to have records of this family from *Catholic Churches of the Pacific Northwest*,

*Roseburg II* pp. 15-18 which along with other records enables us to get a picture of this family. In order to understand the relationships of those buried here a list of their children and some of their spouses follows:

1. Sarah; 2. Margaret born ca 1837 Montana m (1) George Rondeau (2) Joseph Chamberland; 3. Alexander born ca 1839; 4. David born Jan 1841 m Sarah Bradley, their daughter Margaret m Joseph Farquhar; 5. Auguste born 1843 died 1868 first burial in Lavadoure Cemetery; 6. Cecile born ca 1844 m (1) Frank Acosta (2) Narcisse Gingras; 7. Joseph born ca 1846 m Julia, their daughter Rosa m John Parazoo; 8. Andrew born Aug 1849 m Marguerite Quintal; 9. Genevieve "Jane" born 5 Aug 1851 m Paul Gilbeau; 10. Marie born 5 Aug 1851 twin of Genevieve; 11. Jock born May 1854 m Nellie; 12. Frank born ca 1856; 13. Amelia born 6 May 1858 m Francis "Frank" McKay son of John McKay and Rosalie Plouff; 14. Charles born 1860 m Mary Josephine Rainville, their daughter Mary Bessie m (1) Fred Parazoo (2) Frank Van Norman; 15. Elenore "Lee" born 29 Mar 1861 m (1) John Laffrombois (2) Abraham Gilbeau

Son Auguste "Gus" Dumont born 1843 died 9 Feb 1868. Knowing death was near he had chosen a lovely spot on the hill above the South Umpqua River and Lavadoure Creek as his final resting place. His was the first grave there.

## DAYS CREEK – TILLER – DREW AREA CEMETERIES

### LAVADOURE CEMETERY

Alexander Dumont, Sr. is said to have reached the age of one hundred and twelve years before he too was laid to rest beside his son. Another source said he is buried in Colville, Washington. It is unlikely he lived that long as he is not found in any census after 1880 in either Washington or Oregon and he would have had to live until 1924.

*Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest* records on 6 July 1868 F. X. Blanchet "blessed the grave of Auguste Dumont on Dumont's farm, up the South Umpqua River, who died February 9<sup>th</sup> last, age 25 years. Witness, Alexander Dumong." (sic)

In an adjoining fenced area is buried Mark Lamar Giles, a logger who lost his life in the nearby Bland Mt. Fire as well as Ray and Esther Wright on whose property the cemetery lies in 2000. Also their German Shepherd dog, Gretchen von Nordfelsen, who has her own headstone.

The Umpqua Chapter DAR made a list of markers in 1960 and these records were referred to as aid in identifying those buried there as many of these markers are now missing or illegible.

Beginning in the old section, the first row on the north side, reading west to east.

#### Row 1

LaCHANCE, Clara M. 1909 – 1974 [Metal marker only]: Chapel of the Roses  
[Had to cut berry vines away to locate stone in extreme SW corner]

#### Row 2 Beginning in center of row and going east

Five UNKNOWN [Five rounded stones marking head of graves]

QUARING, Effie M. Jan. 21 1905 – Sept. 29 1946 [Red marker matches next]

Van NORMAN, Bessie M. 1894 – 1947 At rest [Bessie Dumont, daughter of Charles Dumont & Mary Josephine Rainville – wife of Frank Van Norman]

Van NORMAN, Lewis Gilbert December 9 1920 – October 26 1949 Oregon Pfc. 545  
AAF Base HQ. PAB Sq World War II [Son of Frank and Bessie]

Van NORMAN, Frank Dec. 28, 1962 age 83 years ? mo 9 days [Metal marker laying on concrete slab] [Husband of Bessie]

#### Row 3

Six UNKNOWN [Six rounded stones marking head of graves]

#### Row 4

Six UNKNOWN [Six rounded stones marking head of graves]

## DAYS CREEK – TILLER – DREW AREA CEMETERIES

### LAVADOURE CEMETERY

Row 4 cont.

UNKNOWN [Rock and mound]

[GILBEAUGH, Abraham] [White quartz rock – perhaps Abraham Gilbeaugh who died Oct 8, 1926 per Oregon Death Index. DAR had him listed next to Lee, with no dates]

GILBEAUGH, Mrs. Lee Feb. 14, 1937 age 79 yrs. 8 mo. 18 days [Age from DAR, metal marker only, now almost illegible. ODI has died Douglas County, wife of Abe. She was born 29 Mar 1861, daughter of Alexander Dumont]

GILBEAUGH, Betty Lou aged 2 mos. 14 days [Metal marker only, hard to read]: Ganz Mortuary

[CODY, Miss Gracie Georgia Jan. 6, 1929 5 yrs. 7 mo. 25 days [Blank metal marker, data from DAR]

RONDEAU, Manford Feb. 24, 1940 Myrtle Point 26 years 11 mo 14 days [Data from DAR and ODI – died Coos County] [Grandson of Abraham and Eleanor “Lee” Gilbeaugh]

Row 5

HEUSSER, Jean Alice July 4 1923 – Aug. 17 1995 A loving and true mate – Rest in Peace [Indian headdress and two arrows inscribed]

Two UNKNOWN [Rounded stones marking head of graves]

\_\_M\_\_AS, Lucy Marie Born 2-13-\_\_ age 56 [Metal marker only]: Chapel of the Firs, Roseburg, Oregon

UNKNOWN, [Rounded stone marking head of grave]

DUMONT, Tod Gus [Metal marker only]: Douglas Funeral Home

DUMONT, Mrs. Margaret September 26, 1935 age 77 yrs. 9 mo. 8 days [Metal Marker only, Douglas Funeral Home – probably wife of Andrew]

DUMONT, Sam March 30, 1938 Oregon Pvt 1 Cl 31 Inf [White marble upright military stone, also metal marker]: Samuel Dumont Mar 30 \_\_ Roseburg Undertaking

DUMONT, Grace M. 10-27-1952 age 67 yrs. 1 mo. [Metal marker only]: T. B. Hall Funeral Home, Grants Pass, Oregon

## DAYS CREEK – TILLER – DREW AREA CEMETERIES

### LAVADOURE CEMETERY

Row 6

HUNTLY, Milton 1912 – 1971 Cpl US Army WWII [Bronze military marker] [ 1930 Klamath County, Oregon census with father Hyman Huntly 63 divorced, both sheep herders]

FARMER, James E. Oct. 23, 1970 age 69 yrs. [Metal marker only]: Ganz Mortuary, Myrtle Creek, Oregon [1930 Coos County, Oregon census with wife Ada M. and three children]

LaCHANCE, Mary A. Sept 14, 196\_ age 68 years [Metal marker only, leaning against white quartz rock]: Ganz Mortuary, Myrtle Creek, Oregon [ODI: died Sept 14, 1960 husband Narcisse D.] [Mary Agnes Guilbeau born 4 May 1892 daughter of Elenore "Lee" Dumont and Abraham Guilbeau – wife of David Narcisse LaChance]

UNKNOWN, [Rounded stone marking head of grave]

PRUITT, Tod Sept 4 1914 – June 14 1960 Texas Pfc 3838 QM Gas Supply Co World War II [White marble upright military stone]

2 UNKNOWN [Rounded stones marking head of graves]

UNKNOWN [Blank metal marker]

LaCHANCE, Eldon T. April 3 1925 – July 22 1948 Oregon Pfc 1 Inf World War II

DUMONT, Gene Lloyd Died Oct. 6, 1961 age 2 yrs. 4 mo. 9 days [Metal marker only]: Ganz Mortuary, Myrtle Creek, Oregon

DUMONT, Joseph Gale Apr. 2, 1955 2 mo. 17 days [Metal marker only]: Ganz Mortuary, Myrtle Creek, Oregon

DUMONT, Robert Jan 21, 1970 age 52 yrs. \_mo. 9 days [Metal marker only, now missing. ODI: Robert L. Dumont, wife Amaryllis]

YOUNG, Amaryllis Dumont Freeman June 13, 1834 – May 8, 1988 [ODI: Amaryllis Jean Freeman same death date]

From DAR list the following are said to have been buried in this cemetery:

DUMONT, Alexander – DAR "The first to be buried here" (We now know this was in error) Said to have been 112 years old at time of death. Had a Donation Land Claim. (Age at death and place of burial also in question) Born 1812 Michigan – Died after 1880.

## DAYS CREEK – TILLER – DREW AREA CEMETERIES

### LAVADOURE CEMETERY

DUMONT, Josette – wife of Alexander Dumont. [Born ca 1820/22 Washington Territory or Montana Territory – Died after 1880]

DUMONT, Auguste [Born 1843 – Died 9 Feb 1868 age 25 years, son of Alexander and Josette Dumont – first burial]

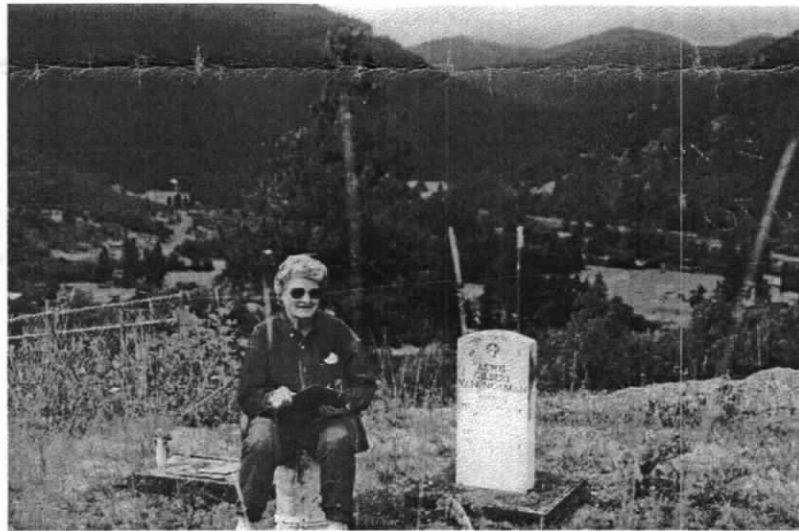
DUMONT, Andrea “Andrew” Born about March 1949 – Died \_\_\_\_ Husband of Mrs. Margaret Dumont [ODI: Died 2 June 1922]

GILBEAUGH, Jane Dumont – wife of Paul Gilbeaugh [Born 5 Aug 1851 – Died \_\_\_\_]

GILBEAUGH, Paul [Born 25 May 1838 – Died \_\_\_\_]

GILBEAUGH children: John, Mary, Dave and Sampson

In 1960 the DAR listed 30 graves with rock or board markers at each end and if there had been any marking it had long since weathered away.



GSDC member Bette Dickover at the Lavadoire Cemetery with South Umpqua River below.



ther was born in North Carolina in 1799 and came to Oregon in 1844. He and his family settled their claim in 1853.

After Thomas S. Gage died of his wounds, his body was brought home and he was first buried on the John Cox place. In December of 1877, according to Sherley Clayton, the bodies in the Cox cemetery were transferred to new burying ground, the Civil Bend cemetery. Land for this burial ground was furnished by Beaman and Burban Brockway.

Roy O. Young of Roseburg notes that he has been placing flags on Gage's grave since 1919, remembering him as one of those gallant men killed in the defense of their families in the early days of the Pacific Northwest. Young says that the gravestone has deteriorated to the point where it is difficult to read. He feels that he is the only one who knows the exact location of this grave and he would like to see it marked in such a manner that it won't be lost to history. This would be a fine Bicentennial object for someone in the Civil Bend area. Gravestones or markers are available from the government, so the cost would be nominal. Any group interested may call Mr. Young for further particulars.



## RECENT PUBLICATION OF INTEREST

Frank Walsh of Te-Cum-Tom Publications, Grants Pass, Oregon, has issued the excellent twenty-seven page booklet on the historic Oregon Caves, located in Josephine County. Originally published as "Discovery and Exploration of the Oregon Caves" in 1971, the Bicentennial edition has been revised and retitled "Oregon Caves... Discovery and Exploration." The new booklet has a bright pictorial cover and contains additional work, including recent photos, a cave tour map and a summary of explorations of the 1970's. Profusely illustrated with old and new photos, this fine publication on the Oregon Caves National Monument is authored by Frank K. Walsh and William R. Halliday. The booklet sells for \$1.95 and can be ordered from Te-Cum-Tom Publications, 570 Sunset Way, Grants Pass, OR, 97526.

## TWO OLD GUNS

By Harriet D. Munnick

*(In the last issue of the TRAPPER, Alexander Dumont appeared on the cover with his gun. In this issue, Mrs. Munnick tells of the friendship between Dumont and Joseph Lavadour, two pioneer residents of Douglas County.)*

The accompanying picture of an ancient gun and the cover photo of the last *Trapper* (showing the Dumont gun) were taken a century apart, but the guns themselves were coexistent. The Lavadour gun is still in firing condition. The old men who owned the guns knew each other well and no doubt often hunted together, though their lives met, diverged, and met again like two shifting currents in a stream.

Joseph Lavadour, whose great-great-grandson holds his gun in the photo, was 24 years older than Alexander Dumont. Lavadour was born about 1791 in eastern Canada and was already in the fur trade in the West by the time Dumont was born. Their paths did not cross until Dumont himself was old enough to come west as a hunter and trapper in 1838.

Dumont does not appear in any of the Company lists and was apparently a free trapper, wandering at will on either side of the Rocky Mountains. He was called Gueret dit Dumont in those days, for in France two centuries earlier, Jean Gueret had married Francoise, the daughter of one Lord Jean de Meherence du Montmirel, a name shortened to Lord of the Mont-Du-Mont. The high-sounding name of Dumont thus became attached to the Gueret name, although Alexander made no claim to being more than "a half-breed Sautaux from Green Bay, Wisconsin," and his wife "Josette Finley, a metisse Cree," or possibly Spokane. Both were Catholic from their youth, as most of French-Canadian descent were, and we may trace Dumont's roaming trails by the recorded baptisms made by the early missionaries.

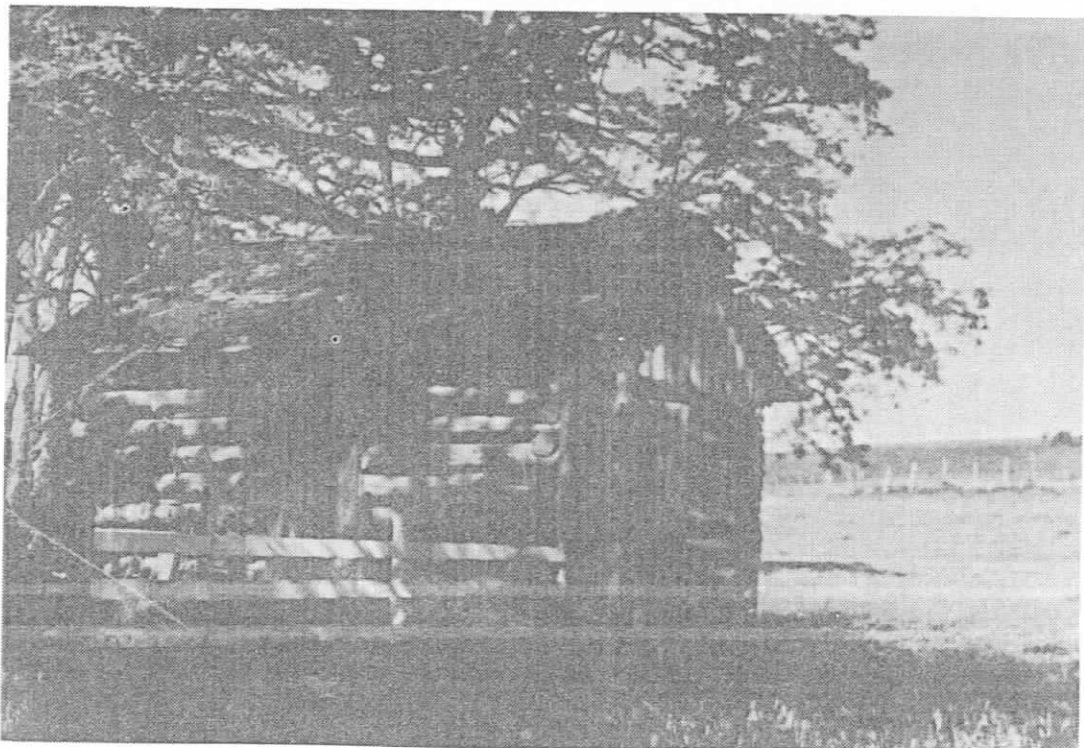
Thus we find them at Colville in 1838-39, where their first two children, Marguerite and Alexander, were baptized. In 1841 they were in the Bitterroot country of Montana, where Father Nicolas Point met them near Hellgate, in the Finley camp, and where he was in luck to find them, else he might have had to be godparent himself to the dozen or more Finleys big and little that he baptized there. They were at Cataldo, Idaho, in 1842, where their son Auguste was born, but the Finley camp had dispersed. By 1850 Dumont, Louis Brown and several of the Finleys were trying their hand at a settled life in St. Louis, Oregon, in the Willamette Valley.

But Dumont was still not ready to give up roving, apparently dividing his time between St. Louis and a Donation Land Claim on the South Umpqua in southern Oregon. He said in his application that he had settled his claim between 1852 and 1854, by which he may have meant he had started im-



*Joseph "Joey" Lavadour IV is depicted holding the weapon which belonged to Joseph Lavadour I. Between his knees can be seen the Douglas County Museum photo of Alexander Dumont in a similar pose with his muzzle loading weapon. The Lavadours left Douglas County and settled on the Umatilla Reservation near Pendleton.*

*Harriet D. Munnick Collection  
Douglas County Museum*



*This log cabin, built by Joseph Lavadour I, is still standing on the Umatilla Reservation, although now used as a storage shed. It shows typical French Canadian axe work in its construction.*

*Harriet D. Munnick Collection  
Douglas County Museum*



provements there. The family seems to have remained in the Willamette Valley, where it was increased with the births of Andre, the twins Marie and Genevieve, Francis, and an unrecorded David. By 1857 he was definitely "domiciled in the County of Douglas, Oregon," on a claim now known as the Michaels place.

At about the same time, Joseph Lavadour retired from his wanderings to settle near the present Milo on the South Umpqua. He had left the Hudson's Bay Company service, mined in California and done a stint in the Cayuse War that followed the Whitman Massacre. He and Dumont had no doubt crossed trails many times in the fur trade; indeed, it would be hard not to have done so. Now they became neighbors for the next twenty years.

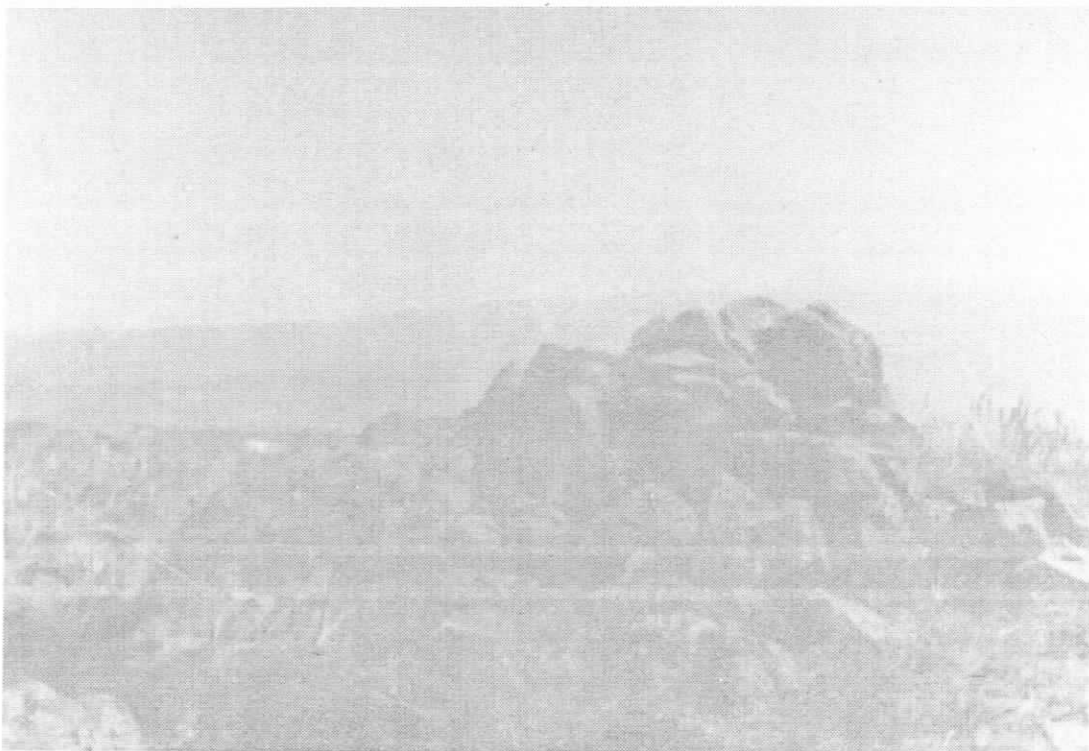
The often-heard legend that the two, "both from Three Rivers, Canada, and both with Pend Oreille wives, were trapping on the South Umpqua in the 1820's and camped with an Indian village on the present site of Milo Academy" no doubt stems from this considerably later era on their neighboring claims. (Alexander Dumont, according to his own affidavit, was born in 1815, too young to trap in that early decade.) Family tradition that is handed down through several generations may be fairly accurate in the main, but usually sets the date too far in the past—"It was all so long ago!" In any case, the two old guns no doubt brought down many a deer to fill the dutch oven on the fireplace hearth in the cabins of both as they ranged the hills together.

A family story relates that Dumont's grandson, Sam, "didn't need a gun, even an old one, to kill a deer once—just ran after it through the woods and threw a rock at its head. The deer fell dead in its tracks."

By the 1880's, Lavadour's family of seven children and Dumont's of fourteen had been reduced by marriages and deaths, and the men were growing old. Their ways parted when Dumont went to the Colville country to spend his last years, Lavadour to the Umatilla. Both left numerous descendants in Douglas County, where their names are still represented by many families. Dumont's son Auguste, buried on his father's farm in 1868, may have been the first in the present Lavadour Cemetery, though his grave is not identified. Dumont's last years are not well documented, although it is believed both he and his wife died at Colville and were buried in the Reservation Cemetery there.

Lavadour left a clearer trail. The solid cabin he built near Cayuse still stands, now used for storage and lacking the leanto kitchen it once had. If its old walls had voices, they could tell many a story of doings within and without; the grandchildren who participated must speak instead.

"I asked what my grandfather Joseph had looked like. Mother said, 'See that neighbor walking down the road, Mr. Morrisette? Grandpa looked something like him. Not notably large or tall, a moustache, no beard.'" All known pictures of him were destroyed by his son Xavier at his death in compliance with some Indian tradition.



This eagle trap, still in existence in the Blue Mountains east of Pendleton, shows the primitive method used by Indians to capture eagles, whose feathers were used for ceremonial purposes. See the story for details on how the trap was operated.

Harriet D. Munnick Collection  
Douglas County Museum

X  
"Uncle X lived on in the same house. We went there for dinner one time. While my mother and Aunt Mollie were out in the lean-to getting dinner, one of her girls took me into the bedroom addition. Mollie always had a white sheet over the bed. My cousin said she would teach me how to turn somersaults. She was turning them on the bed when her mother came in. I don't remember what she did to her, but I know what my mother would have done to me!"

"Grandmother's name was Tawasakie. That means something like One-who-gets-her-work-done-early. Lizette was her name in English. Her sisters were Mrs. Eats-No-Meat, Mrs. Young Chief, Mrs. Matches, Mrs. Susie Liberty, Mrs. Yum-Sum-kin, and I'm not sure about Annie Hair—Poker Jim was Annie Hair's father—Annie was related somehow."

"Grandmother's sister didn't mind the rattlesnakes in her yard, for they were the spirits of her dead ancestors, but when they got too thick for the neighbors, she would pick them up gently and carry them farther up the hill to the rocks."

"Oh, the dances they had in that cabin! I can still remember going to them when I was small. No, there wasn't much room, but room enough—you just shoved the stuff back against the wall."

"I will show you a stone eagle trap on top of Sugar Bowl Mountain. It is like a pit with a half-circle of stone wall around it. They put bait on the wall, then they laid down in the pit and pulled grass and stones over themselves. When the eagle came down to the bait they grabbed him by the legs and killed him. The feathers for bonnets, bones for whistles, wings for brushes—they didn't waste very much of him."

Joseph Lavadour lived past the century mark, almost to one hundred one. The family lot in the Indian Cemetery at Mission bears the names of him and Lizette, their sons and grandchildren. The Lavadour name remains throughout the area. One Dumont has a Lavadour wife, with a rattlesnake hill behind the house; the old lines have united once more.



## The Tenmile Prairie Indian Outbreak

(The following letter, written by Thomas Croxton, describes the following the Indian attack on Rice's Cabin in 1855 which led to the annihilation of the male members of the Cow Creek band. Footnotes files of the Douglas County Museum identify some of the settlers mentioned by Reverend Croxton. The material was edited for publication by Bakken.)

From *The Oregon Statesman*, 8 January 1856, page 1:

TENMILE PRAIRIE, DOUGLAS COUNTY,  
December 16,

MR. BUSH.—Dear Sir:

Knowing that you take an interest in the welfare of the inhabitant of the Umpqua valley, and that your paper has a wide-spread circulation in Oregon Territory, I knew of no better way of communicating with you who have friends in this portion of the country than through the medium of your journal. Rumors have spread far and wide about the late outbreak of the Indians in this part of the country. I shall endeavor to give particulars as they have transpired.

Early on the morning of Saturday, December 1st, as Mr. McCullough<sup>1</sup> was returning from his brother-in-law's (Mr. S. I. home, when near the schoolhouse in the Rice settlement, on the Umpqua river, he found that he was in the midst of Indians, who were in ambush by the road side; they commenced firing upon him, and were on either side of him, he had to run the gauntlet. The Indians at him about eight times, but fortunately, missed him.

On his way home, which is in Ten Mile Prairie, he gave the alarm in his way, who commenced gathering together for protection to each other. This was about 11 o'clock a.m.; about 12, the flames began to ascend from Mr. Richard's<sup>3</sup> house and granary; previous to this they had an attack on Mr. Rice,<sup>4</sup> who stood his ground, but got his arm broken in the affray. The Indians then set fire to the outbuildings, and left for the house, which they set on fire. They then went to Mr. Robinson's house they set on fire; from thence to Mr. Richard's, here they set the house and granary; at this place the road to the Ten Mile forks—the Indians seemed to be studying which of the roads to take.

When Mr. Jas. Wells<sup>5</sup> and Mr. Rice, who were going to see the Indians had really broke out, and to render assistance to the families needed, in going round the point of brush near Mr. Richards' cabin in sight of some Indians; some of them they knew were Indians living in the neighborhood. They halted their horses for a moment, and discovered more Indians in the brush; as there was no chance of past them, they thought it best to turn back to the settlement—the