

ABOUT THIS SERIES

This series is brought to you by grant money the City of Cottage Grove received through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Heritage Program. The grant is to be used to partner with local media and historical organizations to showcase storytelling, photographs, and tidbits that many are unaware of. The Chronicle and KNND Radio to highlight its rich and dynamic history through an Oregon Heritage All-Star Community grant. The grant covers the cost of marketing to bring focus to the unique stories of Cottage Grove's past through Partners in History:

PARTNERS IN HISTORY

- ✧ CG Public Library
- ✧ Cottage Grove Museum
- ✧ CG Historical Society
- ✧ CG Genealogical Society
- ✧ Bohemia Gold Mining Museum
- ✧ Oregon Aviation Historical Society
- ✧ Singing Creek Educational Center

The Cottage Grove Partners in History are a group of non-profit and government organizations dedicated to enhancing community and visitor awareness of regional history and to encourage knowledge, participation, and utilization of local historical resources.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

COTTAGE GROVE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

700 E. Gibbs Ave., Cottage Grove, Oregon, 97424.

Open Wednesday-Friday
1-4 p.m. and by appt.

On Feb. 11, the society celebrated its 50th anniversary!

If you have found items you would like to return to descendants, the Ellis Memorial Research Library has Ancestry.com Library Edition and Newspapers.com Oregon Collection databases. Stop by for a free Getting Started packet. Volunteers can help you discover more about your family no matter where they lived.

OF NOTE

Open House: June 11, in the Shepherd Room at the Community Center, 2-6:30 p.m.

WANT TO HELP?

Remote, at-home volunteer opportunities.

MORE INFO

CGGenealogy.org
info@cggenealogy.org
541-942-9370

As ever, Lora ...

Postcard mystery solved serendipitously

For over 30 years, I have collected photos of the area. You have probably seen some of them in the local newspapers or the 2024 Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Visitor Guide. Many are picture postcards, and sometimes the message written to someone is more important for local history than the photo.

That was the case for this postcard, which I've had for over 20 years, "Postcard from home — Five Deaths This Week."

Lora, of Cottage Grove, wrote a note to her brother Ezra Baker, who was living in Portland at the time, with news of Cottage Grove. The note is postmarked Feb. 17, 1913. Here is what Lora wrote to her brother, typed as written:



"About the time you've given up I will break the spell by sending a card. When I went upstairs after some stationary and coming down I did the clown act head first I hurt my shoulder. I am so nervous I can't hardly write. I am working in a cook-house. I am home today but will go pretty soon. We are all well. We have had five deaths this week in three days yesterday Bud Allen was buried two cars ran over him. Mr. Bayles died Tuesday Uncle Hamilton died last week, for two weeks he had no nourishment at all. Everybody feels awful bad. A woman died in the mines and just her husband with her an old man died in the Johnson Meadows and was buried there. They brought her out on snow shoes. As ever Lora"



When I first purchased the postcard, I did some research about the deaths Lora reported, which were many for a community of only about 3,000 residents in such a short time.

Love "Bud" Allen, was born on Dec. 17, 1884, a few miles east of Cottage Grove to Love and Elizabeth Bowers Allen. Bud, of Cottage Grove, married Fairy Dell Wicks, of Star, April 9, 1909 in Lane County.

The report of his death on the front page, Feb. 13 edition of the Cottage Grove Sentinel, "Bud Allen, an employee of the Brown Lumber Co., at its Rocky Point camp, fell under the wheels of a logging car this morning at about 8 o'clock and was instantly killed." Bud died on Feb. 13, 1913, and was buried at Sears Cemetery on Feb. 15 and was survived by his widow, Fairy Dell Wicks Allen. **John B. Bayles** was born Oct. 11, 1827, at Finley Bluffs, Jackson County, Ind. He was a Civil War Veteran as a 1st Lieutenant with the First Missouri Volunteers, being obliged to leave the service because of pneumonia. He married Miss Calitha Murril in 1865, who died in 1869. He married Miss Naomi Bridges again the same year. He died at the age of 85 on Feb. 10. **Charles Hamilton Wallace**, a well-known Preacher and Brickmaker of Cottage Grove, died on Feb. 6 at 81 years, 5 months and 3 days. He was born in Howard County, Missouri on Sept. 3, 1831 and



Debra
Monsive

married Elizabeth Ann Veatch at Schuyler County, Missouri on Nov. 11, 1852.

From the Feb. 13, 1913 edition of the Cottage Grove Sentinel: "Far From Civilization; Hemmed In By Snow: Old Miner Passes Away — Old Man Long, Odd Character and Well Known in Bohemia Mining District, Dies at Cabin of Neighbors — Disston, Ore., Feb. 13. — (Special to The Sentinel.) — Fifteen miles from the nearest wagon road, trails buried 10 feet deep with snow and 30 miles from civilization or medical aid, Old Man Long, a well known character in the Bohemia mining district, but who was so much of a recluse that even his given name is not known to his acquaintances, died at the cabin of neighbors on Steamboat Creek 30 miles south of here several days ago and has been buried in the mountains because of the inability to get the body out ... The coroner of Douglas County has been notified of the death."

From The Sentinel's Feb. 20, 1913 edition: "Good Samaritan Part Acted by Rough Miners — Body of Wife Carried Through Snow Drifts for Husband" — That under rough exteriors may beat the kindest hearts and that tenderness may come unexpectedly from those accustomed to the rough life of the mountains, was demonstrated to P.J. Bowling when his wife recently died at the Vesuvius mine in the Bohemia District. Hemmed in by snow, roads impassable and traveling almost impossible, the big-hearted miners left their work and carried the body six miles down the mountainside through drifts of snow that might have daunted them had not the journey been one of necessity. The body was placed safely in a carriage which was able to reach the foot of the mountain from Cottage Grove. The husband, his voice husky and his breast already overflowing with emotion, could not speak the gratitude felt to those who had done so much for him, but he says the memory of those rough men acting the Good Samaritan for one who was nothing to them will ever remain bright in his memory."

A death certificate was issued for a Roberta H. Bowling, age 42, born Sept. 15, in an unknown year, in Missouri to Phillip S Hauk and Katherine Stout. The informant was her husband P.J. Bowling.

* * *

Family historians often have serendipitous moments while doing genealogical research. One such instance happened last year at the end of January.

We were all still recovering from the ice storm, which delayed two cousins from the Seattle area who planned to visit our library. They, Darline Hubbard, Connolly, and Karen Hubbard DeBois, spent two days at our Ellis Memorial Research Library pouring over records for the Veatch, Wallace, Hubbard, and Baker families we had pulled for them before the visit.

Late on the first day, they talked about visiting the museum the next day, and then Darline said she wished she could find out what happened to their grandmother's brother ... Ezra Baker!

When she said his name, my heart skipped a beat. I looked at Darline and told her I owned a picture postcard mailed to an Ezra Baker living in Portland. She couldn't believe it!

That evening, I pulled the historic postcard from my collection and reread every word as it was one of my favorite finds. Then when I read, "As ever Lora," I knew I was holding a message written almost 110 years earlier by Darline and Karen's grandmother.

I was excited and a little sad, but I knew I had to pass on their grandmother's original postcard. That night, I made high-resolution scans and copies and gave each of them a set. I then promised that once I could sit down and write a story about Lora's message to Ezra, I would send them the original. That time has come, and I am blessed to have held it safely all these years just for them.

One final thing, Lora had written, "Uncle Hamilton died last week..." Charles Hamilton Wallace was, in fact, her and Ezra's uncle!



From left: family Darline Connolly, Joanne Skelton (front), Kenneth Hubbard, Patricia Humphrey, and historian Debra Monsive.

Debra Monsive is a local and family historian. She is also the president of the Cottage Grove Genealogical Society, chair of the CG High School Historical Society Goose Mural Committee, the 2025 Coordinator History Pub, Commissioner of the Cottage Grove Historic Preservation Commission, and vice president of the Cottage Grove Senior Center.