
Nurse & Orchardist

Mable Holgate

Born: 1872 Iowa
Parents' Birth Places f - ME m - OH

1891 John Gross's Hugo Homestead On November 3, 1891 John B. Gross was issued a homestead patent for 160 acres in Hugo, Oregon (Patent No. 2724).¹⁻²

1910 The Holgate property was purchased in April 1910 by Frank C. Holgate and his wife, Mabel, of Elk, Spokane County, Washington, from Walton Jackson. The size of the tract was 36.34 acres and the property had changed hands five times in ten years. Soon after their marriage the Holgates were divorced and Frank Holgate made a permanent deed of the property to his former wife. She took charge of the Hugo land and supervised the planting of the orchard, which consisted primarily of pear trees. Mrs. Holgate took in boarders who occasionally helped with the work. The orchard was in operation through most of the great Depression.³

1920 Census. Lucky Queen, Josephine Co., OR

Mable F. Holgate Head Nurse IA 1872 48 yrs

Mable was the divorced and the head of her house in 1920 Hugo, Oregon. Her occupation was nurse.

1. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet.

2. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Hugo Pioneers*. Map Of Federal Land Transfer in Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.

Mable Holgate, Hugo Settler: 1910 - ca., 1930s

Mabel Holgate, a local Hugo orchardist, specialized in the "Fancy Pack." She was far ahead of Harry & David Bear Creek Orchards in marketing and packaging her fruit.⁴ Local Hugo tradition is that Mabel sold pears world-wide as far as the East Coast and Europe. This was during the days of the railroad and ocean freighter.

1938 Commencement exercises were held for the Hugo Elementary School and the Hugo High School in the high school May 25, 1938. Those who graduated from high school were Erma Olson and Edwin Brown. Beatrice Decker was the only eight grade graduate. The program was as follows: processional by orchestra; invocation by Dr. Mabel Holgate; song by Beatrice Decker; valedictory by Erma Olson; selection by orchestra; salutatory by Edwin Brown; song by Mr. Waltz; address by J. F. Swigart; presentation of awards by Irene Rodgers and of diplomas by Thomas Mackenzie.⁵



Mabel Holgate, Orchardist

3. Atwood, Kay. 1984. *Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory: 1983 - 1984*. Volume I. Grants Pass, OR.

4. Hugo Neighborhood. 2003. *Hugo's Famous Orchards*. Hugo, OR.

5. Hugo Neighborhood. 2001. *Draft - Beatrice June (Decker) Bentson's Hugo Memories: 1924 - 2001*. Hugo, OR.

"Pear-adise" Hill Orchard

History of Property To Holgate

1891 - 1895	John Gross ¹⁻²
1910	Mable F. Holgate
1932	Mable F. Holgate

Later owners operated a chicken ranch on the property. Owners in the 1980s had a farming operation.³



Importance The Mabel Holgate Orchard complex is representative of early 20th century fruit farming which was an important part of the economic life in the Hugo-Merlin area in the early 1900s. The packing house, cabin, and shed were all in existence in 1920.³

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

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.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Web Page: <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/>

Edited by Jacque Hardwick, Karen Rose, Wayne and Janet McKy, & Mike Walker

Hugo Neighborhood Officers

Hal Anthony, Outreach Chair
3995 Russell Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Wayne McKy, Chair
6497 Hugo Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Mike Walker, Education Chair
3388B Merlin Rd #195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Standing Committees

Historical Documents Editing Committee
Jacque Hardwick, Chair; Jean Boliing, Karen Rose; Wayne & Janet McKy; Mike Walker

Jean Boling, Chair, Pleasant Valley Cemetery Committee;
Co-Chair, Pioneers Committee

Mike Brassill, Chair, Wildflower Committee

Wayne McKy, Co-Chair, Hazardous Fuels Committee;
Chair, Orchard Committee;
Chair, Farm & Forest Committee

Karen Rose, Web Master; News Letter Editor
Hugo Whistle Stop; Co-Chair, Hugo Emigrant Trails
Committee; Chair, Native Americans Committee

Jon Whalen, Story Teller; Chair
Metal Detection Committee

Mike Walker, Co-Chair, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee;
Co-Chair, Hazardous Fuels Committee; Chair, National
Historic Register Committee;
Co-Chair, Pioneers Committee

Tom Walker, Chair, Hugo Sign Committee

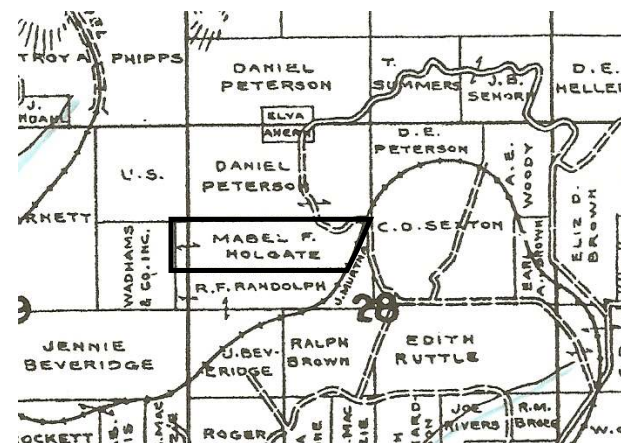
Brochure 175 in Hugo's Early Settler Brochure Series -
HNA&HS 2009 -175

C:\Documents and Settings\mike\My
Documents\Genealogy\History_Brochures\People Settlers 1900 -
1930s\BROCHURE_175 Holgate Mabel 012108.wpd

MABEL HOLGATE FAMILY: HUGO SETTLERS



Very Draft
Brochure 175 Of Hugo's Early
Settler Brochure Series



Mabel Holgate's "Pear-adise" Hill Orchard: 1932

January 25, 2010

Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society