
John & Minta Wise: Hugo's Early Settlers

John A. Wise

Born: 1843 Pennsylvania
Died: December 31, 1908 Josephine Co, Oregon

Father

James Wise Born: 1820 Pennsylvania
James Wise Died: 1858

Mother

Hannah Wise Born: 1821 Virginia
Hannah Wise Died: 1903 Dodge Co., Nebraska

Mittie "Minta" "Minty" (Simmons) Wise

Born: 1844 Illinois
Father's Birth Place: Tennessee
Mother's Birth Place: Tennessee

1865 John Wise mustered out of the 40th Regiment on August 2, 1865 at Fort Gibson in the Cherokee Nation.

1866 John A. Wise and Mittie Simmons were married September 9, 1866 in Knoxville County, Iowa.

1877 State of Washington Census. Spokane County, Territory of Washington

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|------------|--------|----|------|--------|
| J. A. Wise | Male | PA | 1843 | 44 yrs |
| M. A. Wise | Female | IL | 1846 | 41 yrs |
| T. L. Wise | Male | IA | 1867 | 20 yrs |
| D. M. Wise | Male | NE | 1870 | 17 yrs |
| E. M. Wise | Female | NE | 1875 | 12 yrs |
| E. Wise | Female | NE | 1875 | 12 yrs |
| A. M. Wise | Female | NE | 1879 | 8 yrs |

John Wise Family, Early Settlers: 1904 - 1927

1900 Census. Slate Creek Precinct, Josephine Co., OR

Thomas T. Wise Partner IA 1869 31 yrs

Thomas's occupation was wood chopper.

1904 John Wise and his wife, Minta, purchased the property in August of 1904 from James Robertslaw of Siskiyou County. He was particularly known throughout the area as a breeder of thoroughbred Jersey cows.¹

1905 The Wise-Tavis Barn was constructed ca., 1905 by John A. Wise.¹

1906 Hugo has a post office, store, good schoolhouse and will soon have a dairy in operation. John Wise and son have all of the machinery necessary and are preparing to start a first class dairy. Both gentlemen are experienced butter makers and we hope they will make a success of the business. *Rogue River Courier*. September 14, 1906. Hugo. It is believed that the son was Tomas Wise.

1908 Oregon Death Index, 1903 - 98 John A Wise farmed the land until his death four years after arriving in Hugo on December 31, 1908.

1911 In 1911 members of the Wise family granted their parts of his farm estate to their brother-in-law, George W. Tavis, a resident of Washington state. George moved to the farm immediately and took over the operation.¹

Wise-Tavis Pole Barn

1920 Census. Merlin Precinct, Josephine Co., OR

Mittie A. Wise Head IL 1845 75 yrs
Thomas T. Wise Son TX 1868 52 yrs

1920 The Tavis continued to farm there until George Tavis was killed when struck by a Southern Pacific train on July 16, 1920. He left his wife, Emily, and five children.¹

1927 Oregon Death Index, 1903 - 98 Minta A. Wise continued to live on the farm until her death on August 18, 1927.

1930 Census. Merlin Precinct, Josephine Co., OR

Thomas L. Wise Head IA 1868 62 yrs

1932 Thos. L. Wise was in possession of the Hugo farm.²

1943 Oregon Death Index, 1903 - 98 Thomas L. Wise died in Josephine County, Oregon June 1943.

Importance¹ The Tavis and Wise families were well known through the Merlin-Hugo area and relatives continue to reside there. The barn is one of the oldest barns in the Merlin-Hugo region and the complete pole construction is unique.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood*.

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

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

3. Metsher, Chas. F. 1955 *Metsker Map. Josephine County, Oregon*. Portland, OR.

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

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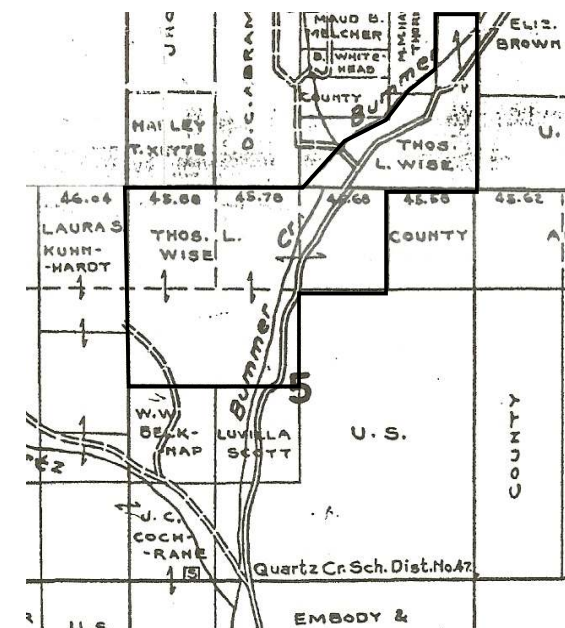
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JOHN WISE FAMILY: HUGO SETTLERS



Very Draft

Brochure 423 Of Hugo's Early
Settler Brochure Series



Not Quality Controlled, Nor Edited

Wise-Tavis Hugo Ranch: 1932

February 7, 2008

Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society

Brochure 423 in Hugo's Early Settler Brochure Series
HNA&HS 2008 - 423

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