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## Caroline Stumbo Niday Sexton

**Caroline Sexton Had Many Escapes From Rogue Indians** A newspaper article on Caroline's escapes from Indians is lengthy and only a few highlights are included here.<sup>1</sup> *Caroline Sexton, whose maiden name was Caroline Stumbo, was born in Ohio, May 1, 1826.* At the age of 18 she was married to Hiram Niday and in 1852 they crossed the plains with ox teams, arriving in the Willamette valley at the old Foster place in October, 1852. The following spring they came south to Applegate and located a farm. That summer the Rogue River Indians, under the leadership of Chief John, Sam and Limpy went on the war path.

The morning after relocating to Fort Vannoy there arrived at the fort three men, Tom Frazell, Tom Mungo and a friendly Indian who went out from the fort to get some horses. They were attacked by Indians, Frazell being killed and both the other men wounded. [Stephen Beckham's "Requiem for a People" (page 122) had the following: "The Asland Tidings, Oct. 4, 1878 reported on Sept. 27, 1853 that Owens' volunteers at Long's Ferry near Grants Pass were ambushed by Indians and James Mango, Thomas Parnell and Thomas Frizell were killed."

The Niday family and others were taken to Fort Ben Halstead because there were not enough men to defend Fort Vannoy. Soon after, *the volunteers captured a young Indian chief named Taylor who had killed seven miners on Galice Creek. He was tried and condemned to die.*

On December 6, 1853 Mr. Niday located the Niday donation claim near Jump-off-Joe. He died in 1855.

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## Caroline Niday Sexton, Hugo Pioneer: 1853 - 1911

*On October 9, 1855, the Rogue River Indians went on the war path again. On that morning Mrs. Niday's three hired men were working in the field and she was washing. She glanced down the Jump-off-Joe valley to see smoke arising from the farms in the valley. After a harried horseback ride she and her family would escape the Indians to Fort Leland, five miles distant.*

*The Indians surrounded Fort Leland and kept up an attack all night. Just before daylight a company of volunteers came from Jacksonville and drove off the Indians. When it was all over Hank Brown, a scout, asked Mrs. Niday, "Was you scared yesterday when the Indians were after you?" "Yes, Hank, and I wish they were all dead." Hank threw seven long haired Indian scalps into her lap and said, "Well, there are seven good Indians."*

Soon the Nidays were sent to Fort Elliff on Cow Creek and then to Fort Levens where soon after the Indians attacked. Caroline helped the men defend the fort with a long rifle from one of the volunteers.

*In the spring of 1856 she returned to her farm only to find the Indians had stolen her stock and burned her buildings, leaving her nothing but the bare soil. She went to work courageously to build new buildings and fences and begin life over again. In 1856 [1857] Mrs. Niday married David H. Sexton, with whom she became acquainted during the Indian war, and they lived on the old farm at the foot of Sexton mountain until their death[s]. Mrs. Sexton died May 20, 1911, at the age of 85 years and 20 days.*



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## More Information

**1876 Hugo Donation Land Claim (DLC)** On July 19, 1876 Caroline Niday and the heirs of Niday were issued a DLC patent for 321.88 acres in Hugo, Oregon (Patent No.1479).<sup>2-3</sup> Niday's will read that Caroline would receive half the DLC and his children the other half. Mary had died and Caroline brought against Nellie and Frank expenses until there wasn't anything left for them when the land was divided. She then married David. But, before or after she married, she took out the Declaration of Women's Rights. This was a law that stated the husband did not acquire the wife's property by marrying her, that it remained hers, and went to her heirs, not necessarily to the husband.

**Major Landowner** Caroline would acquire an additional 310.9 acres in Josephine and Jackson counties under the U. S. government's 1820 Sale-Cash Entry act. She would give important parcels to the community (i.e. First Baptist Church of Hugo, Lucky Queen School, etc.).<sup>4-7</sup>

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

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1. Daily Courier. December 31, 1927. *Caroline Sexton Had Many Escapes From Rogue Indians*. Grants Pass, OR.
  2. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet.
  3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Hugo Pioneers*. Map Of Federal Land Transfer in Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.
  4. Rose, Karen. 2001. *Sexton Family History In Hugo, Oregon*. Written for the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.
  5. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Nidays: Hugo Pioneers*. Hugo, OR.
  6. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Sextons: Hugo Pioneers*. Hugo, OR.
  7. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Lucky Queen Post Office*. Hugo, OR.

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## ***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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# **CAROLINE SEXTON: HUGO PIONEER**

Brochure 69A in Hugo's Pioneers Brochure Series



*Caroline Stumbo (Niday) Sexton*

**January 13, 2008**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**

**Josephine County Historical Society**