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## Charles & Mary Adams Sexton; & Charles & Tarris Drayer Sexton

**1852 Oregon Trail** The Nidays crossed the plains via the Oregon Trail, arriving in the Willamette Valley by late 1852. By 1853, they had moved to Josephine County, locating on a farm in what would become Hugo near Jumpoff Joe Creek. They settled down to raise their family.<sup>1-2</sup>



**1855 - 1857** Caroline Niday's husband Hiram Niday died in 1855. Caroline subsequently married David Sexton, the Indian fighter, in 1857. They had one child, Charles Sexton.<sup>1-4</sup>

**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>5-6</sup>

**Charles D. Sexton**<sup>7</sup> *There are many valued natives of Oregon for whom the natural advantages of this state have such charm that although they have reached mature age, their homes have always been here. An example Charles D. Sexton, who resides on a finely improved farm of four hundred acres in the Rogue river valley, near Hugo, Josephine county, may be cited. He was born on the farm on which he resides, September 27, 1859, a son of David H. And Caroline (Stumbo) Niday Sexton, natives of New York and Iowa [Ohio] respectively.*

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1. Rose, Karen. 2001. *Sexton Family History In Hugo, Oregon*. Written for the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.  
2. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Nidays: Hugo Pioneers*. Hugo, OR.  
3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Sextons: Hugo Pioneers*. Hugo, OR.  
4. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Lucky Queen Post Office*. Hugo, OR.

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## Charles Sexton Family, A Hugo Pioneer Family: 1859 - 1908

*The father [David Sexton] crossed the plains in 1847, with ox teams, and settled in Portland when there was but one log house on the present site of that populous city. In the spring of 1850 he removed to California and after remaining there one year returned to Oregon and settled in Josephine County, where until 1853 he followed mining. He took part in the Indian wars in 1853, 1855 and 1856 as a volunteer. He was married in 1856 [July 23, 1857<sup>8</sup>] to Mrs. Caroline Niday, the widow of Hiram Niday . . . On this farm, David H. Sexton passed away on the 2d of February, 1906 [February 3, 1908], at the age of eighty years, the mother surviving him until May 20, 1910 [1911], when she had reached the age of eight-five years.*

*Charles D. Sexton, an only child, remained with his parents until their deaths, receiving a good common-school education, and a college course. He has since made his home on the old homestead and now owns four hundred acres of fine land situated in the lower Rogue river valley.*

*Mr. Sexton was married in 1884 [January 12, 1885<sup>9</sup>] to Miss Mary Adams, of Salem, Oregon, and to them were born two children, Frank H., born December 16, 1885, on the homestead; and Ada T., born March 2, 1890, who is the wife of J. D. Everton, of Grants Pass. Mrs. Sexton died in 1892.*

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

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

7. Gaston, Joseph. 1912. *Centennial History of Oregon, 1811 - 1912*. S. J. Clarke, 4 vols., pages 450 - 453. Chicago, IL

8. Josephine County Oregon Marriages, Vol. 2, page 3.

9. Josephine County Oregon Marriages, Vol. 2, page 360.

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## More Information

*In 1897 [June 13, 1897<sup>10</sup>] Mr. Sexton was again married, his second union being with Miss Tarris Drayer, a native of Nevada. To this union two children were born: Diadama T., whose birth occurred August 15, 1898; and Fred Fay, born May 4, 1900.*

*Mr. Sexton is a democrat and has served as school director and road supervisor. He is at present master of the Grange in his locality, an organization in which he takes an active interest. He is one of the public-spirited citizens of Josephine County, taking a lively interest in public affairs, and lending his aid and influence to the furtherance of those projects which in his opinion are likely to prove of benefit to the community. He is a capable business man, honorable in all his dealings, and has the respect and esteem of a large number of people in the county and elsewhere with whom he is acquainted.*

**Sexton Homes** Several Sexton homes were burnt during the Indian Wars of the 1850s. They were all on the same site as recorded by the GLO 1856 survey and map. The final Sexton house was built for Widow Tarris Drayer Sexton. It is located a 100 yards north of the previous home sites and is inside of the present home of Kristin Boyce. *This was the final home of Charles Sexton and is significant as the only property left standing which may be associated with this prominent family.*<sup>11</sup>

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

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10. Josephine County Oregon Marriages, Vol. 4, page 168.

11. Atwood, Kay. 1983 - 1984. *Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory*. For the Josephine County Planning Office. Grants Pass, 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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*Photo 1. Charles Sexton at his Hugo home: c.a.,  
1930. He is looking for water with his  
witch willow stick.  
Courtesy of Joyce Austin.*

Brochure 70A in Hugo's Pioneers Brochure Series  
HNA&HS 2008 - 70A

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# CHARLES SEXTON FAMILY: HUGO PIONEERS

Brochure 70A in Hugo's Pioneers Brochure Series



*Photo 1. Charles Sexton*

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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society  
Josephine County Historical Society**