
David Sexton

1847 Oregon Trail David Sexton crossed the plains with ox teams to Oregon in 1847.¹



1850 California In 1850 he traveled to California and after remaining there one year returned to Oregon and settled in Josephine County, where until 1853 he followed mining.¹

1853 - 1856 Indian Wars David took part in the Indian wars in 1853, 1855 and 1856 as a volunteer.¹

1857 David & Caroline Married He married Mrs. Caroline Niday, the widow of Hiram Niday, who was then residing on the old Hugo donation land claim. They had one child, Charles Sexton.²⁻⁴

1908 David Passes On their Hugo farm, David H. Sexton passed away on February 2, 1908, at the age of 80 years (date on tombstone).

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

2. Rose, Karen. 2001. *Sexton Family History In Hugo, Oregon*. Written for the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Nidays: Hugo Pioneers*. Hugo, OR.

4. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Sextons: Hugo Pioneers*. Hugo, OR.

5. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Lucky Queen Post Office*. Hugo, OR.

6. Daily Courier. December 31, 1927. *Bloody Deeds Of Rogue River Indians Brought Sexton's Relentless Pursuit*. Grants Pass, OR.

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

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

David Sexton, Hugo Pioneer & Indian Fighter: 1857 - 1908

Indian Wars A newspaper article written by David Sexton's only son, Charles Sexton, is lengthy and only a few highlights are included here.⁷ *The Rogue River Indians having gone upon the "war path", he joined a company of volunteers under Captain Lamerick to help fight. The first Indian battle of the War of '53 was fought at the mouth of Williams Creek, on the Applegate river, on the 18th day of August. In this fight two men were killed and Lieutenant Griffin was badly wounded but fortunately my father, David H. Sexton, was unwounded, although he had three bullet holes through his clothing.*

In 1855 he again joined the volunteers at Jacksonville, and started down the Rogue River. The first place they reached where the Indians had done any killing was the Jones place. They found Jones had been murdered, and his wife was mortally wounded. Having buried Jones and his wife, they hurried on to the Harris place. They found Mr. Harris dead, Mrs. Mary Harris battered, but without injury, and Mary's daughter, Sophia, wounded. Mary had held off the Indians for a day and night and saved herself and child. Mr. Reed, the hired hand was later found dead. The fate of the Harris's little son, David, was never discovered.

The volunteers next went to the Haines home, which was located about where the townsite of Merlin is now. When the volunteers got to the Haines farm they beheld a sight never to be forgotten even by the bravest of men. The Haines family had been brutally murdered: husband, wife, four boys, and one girl.

Postmaster

Avengers *When my father beheld this sight [at Haines] he turned to his captain and said, "Captain, I have been on the frontier a long time. I have seen some hard sights, but I believe that this is the worst sight I have ever seen. Haines and I were friends; I promise his dead body I will get revenge out of the Indians"*

David fought October 31, 1855 at the Battle of Hungry Hill where 34 volunteers were killed or wounded. He later would fight at the last battle of the Rogue River Indian War at Big Meadows on the Rogue River, May 27, 1856, in a company of volunteers. In this battle he was shot by an Indian and struck in between his eyes with a tomahawk by another, making a very bad wound. He lay in the hot sun all day until dark at which time William Lewis and Abe Cole came to his rescue. *Mr. Lewis said to my father, "Well, Dave, are you dead yet?" My father replied, "No, but I am pretty weak."*

After the war was over there were still several small outlaw bands of Indians who would not give up. Whenever David heard of them he would relentlessly pursue them until they were dead, or "good Indians."

Landowner & Postmaster David would become a major landowner in Hugo beyond Hiram and Caroline Niday's original DLC.⁷⁻⁸ He was the first Postmaster of the Lucky Queen Post Office from 1876 - 1879.⁵

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 Jean Boling, Wayne McKy,
Karen Rose, & Mike Walker

HNA&HS 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

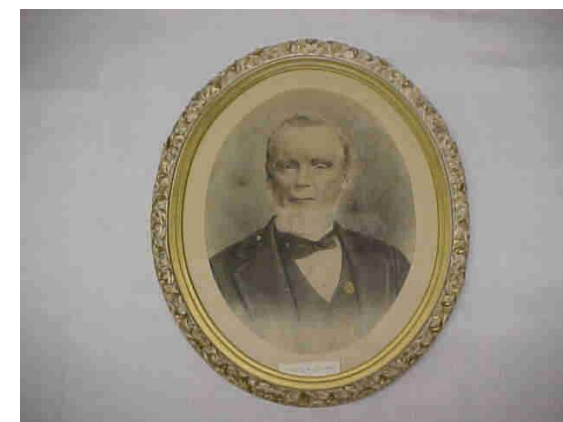
Karen Rose, Web Master
575 Red Mountain Drive
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Josephine County Historical Society

Jean Boling, Historic Sites Chair
Josephine County Historical Society
124 NW Booth Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

DAVID SEXTON, INDIAN FIGHTER & HUGO PIONEER

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David Sexton

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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**

Josephine County Historical Society