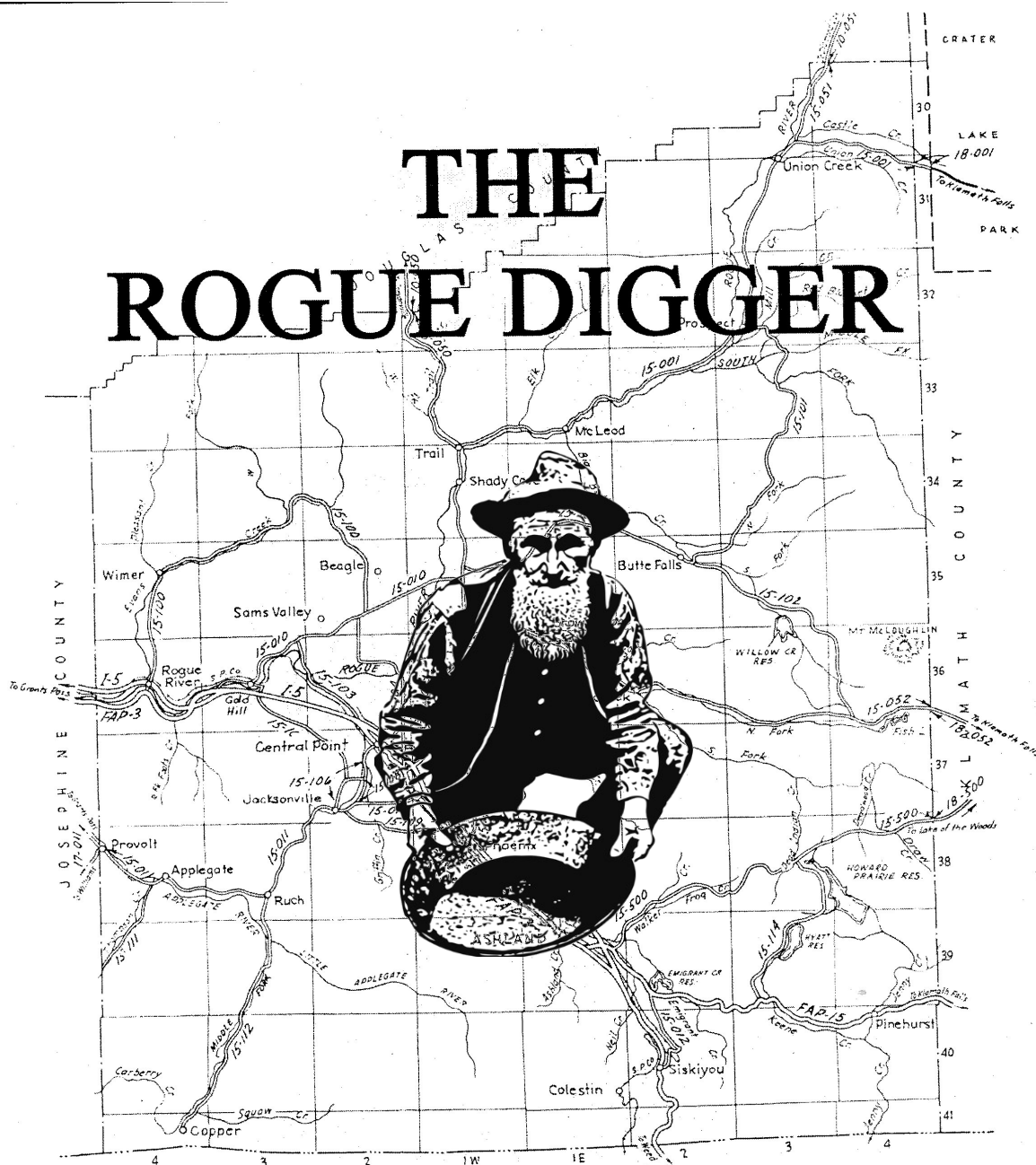


# THE ROGUE DIGGER



# ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Rogue Digger is a publication of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society ([www.rvgsociety.org](http://www.rvgsociety.org)), which is a non-profit organization governed by a thirteen member Board consisting of elected officers, past president, and appointed directors of the Standing Committees, all with voting rights. A subscription to The Rogue Digger is included with membership. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual; additional members in the same household are \$15 each. Membership includes library checkout privileges. Our library website is [www.rvgslibrary.org](http://www.rvgslibrary.org).

## THE MYSTERY OF WILLIAM EATON

by Marie Smith Fulbright



When my husband Bryan's mother passed away we received a photo of a man in military uniform on the back of which was written, "William Eaton born New York died Vicksburg." Also, in another's handwriting, "Roscoe Abram Jordan's Grandfather."

I now wanted to know the story of one of Bryan's ancestors, who was possibly a Civil War participant.

I started my research where you are supposed to start, with the known. From Bryan and his siblings I went to their mother Roxie Agnes Jordan and from there to her father Roscoe Abram Jordan. So far so good. Then the work began. After a lot of unsuccessful searches, as a genealogist looking for original documents, came a giant clue. In a tiny notebook that Bryan's sister Alice had, in Roxie's handwriting, was written:

*Alice Eaton August 27, 1858 at Sparland, Illinois – daughter of William Eaton who was killed at Vicksburg during the Civil War.*

*Stepfather = Samuel Buffington Kansas in 1870.*

*Married John H. Jordan Feb. 27, 1874*

*Had 6 children*

*Moved to Oklahoma in 1902*

*Died June 18, 1913*

*Buried at Delphos, Kansas*

This was a great find and the help I needed.

I found the Samuel Buffington family in the 1870 census in Kansas and John Henry Jordan and Alice in 1880 and 1910 also in Kansas.

In a book of extractions at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City I found the marriage record of J.H. Jordan, 29, and Alice Eaton, 16, dated 26 February 1874. I also found Alice Eaton and her mother Margaret Eaton in the 1860 census living with Alice's grandmother Mary Machin in Brimfield, Peoria county, Illinois, but neither William Eaton or Mary's husband were listed. I found through other research that Alice had a sister Agnes born in 1861.

I was still hunting for the elusive William Eaton.

From the state of Illinois I got a copy of the marriage application of William Eaton and Margaret Machin dated 26 March 1855, but it didn't state ages or places of birth, just that she was past the age of 18. The date of the application is what is used as their marriage date in later papers.

About this time I heard Bryan's sister Kathy was taking a trip to Vicksburg. WOW! Was I excited! Maybe she could provide some

research help. I gave Kathy what information I had gathered and asked her to find out anything she could, if she had time. She did great, sending photos, pamphlets and rubbings of plaques.

The rubbings and photos were of three different Illinois military units that fought at Vicksburg. I had hopes that William Eaton would be on one of the plaques, but he wasn't there.

The Vicksburg information sent me back to the internet. I found a website listing 16 Illinois Regiments in the Civil War with 19 William Eatons. After researching each of the Regiments and through a process of elimination using the website Footnote.com, I found a William Eaton who died in February 1863. Vicksburg was a 47-day siege that started in mid May and ended July 4, 1863. This had to be him. So, I took a \$25.00 gamble and sent to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for a copy of his file.

I did it! It was him! I had found the right William Eaton. The papers from NARA were Margaret's application for a pension for her daughter Alice.

William Eaton was in Company G, 77th Infantry Regiment of Illinois. He enlisted the 14th day of August 1862 at Brimfield, Illinois, as a Private and reported the 2nd day of September 1862 at Peoria, Illinois. He died on board a hospital boat at Young's Point, Louisiana on February 4, 1863. He was probably buried in the Young's Point Louisiana Civil War Cemetery. Young's Point was a staging area and depot for the Union army across the Mississippi River from Vicksburg. It is unlikely any graves are still there. There is no cemetery to be found and it is reported that the dead were probably moved to the Vicksburg National Cemetery. He may or may not be one of the unknown soldiers there.

I am not quite finished with William Eaton though, as I really want to know his date and place of birth. I have a feeling he was born in England not New York. But how to prove it. I have found several William Eatons on ship passenger lists that are of the right time period but so far haven't found the right one.

UPDATE: At a recent research time at the Jackson County Genealogy Library I took up the quest for William Eaton again. I found the "Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls" database at the Illinois State Archives website. The search result was the "Illinois Civil War Detail Report". It states that William Eaton a Private in Company G 77th Illinois US Infantry was a resident of Brimfield, Peoria County, Illinois. He was 26 years of age, 5' 6 1/2. Had Dark hair and Blue eyes, a dark complexion, was married and a farmer. And it lists his place of birth as England. He joined the military on 14 Aug 1862 for 3 years and mustered in on 2 Sep 1862 at Peoria, Illinois. Under Remarks it says "Died Feb 4, 1863 at Youngs Point, LA."

William Eaton did not die at the Battle of Vicksburg as written on the back of his photo but he did die in the service of his country, and I do like the fact that I can now tell part of his story to any who ask about the man whose photograph hangs on my wall.

It has been an interesting research journey but one that was well worth the time. William Eaton is Bryan's great-great-grandfather on his maternal side and the emigrant of that line.



## 2013 RVGS PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

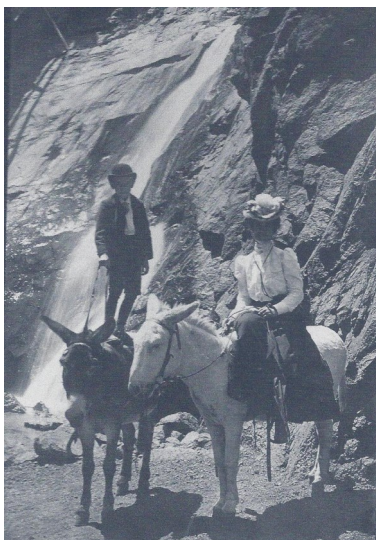
*Thank You All For Your Entries!*



### Category: Children

Clarence Wallett c. 1887

Submitted by Flo Bohnert



### Category: Funniest Ancestor

May S. Hoyt and Merle Gray,  
Colorado c. 1902

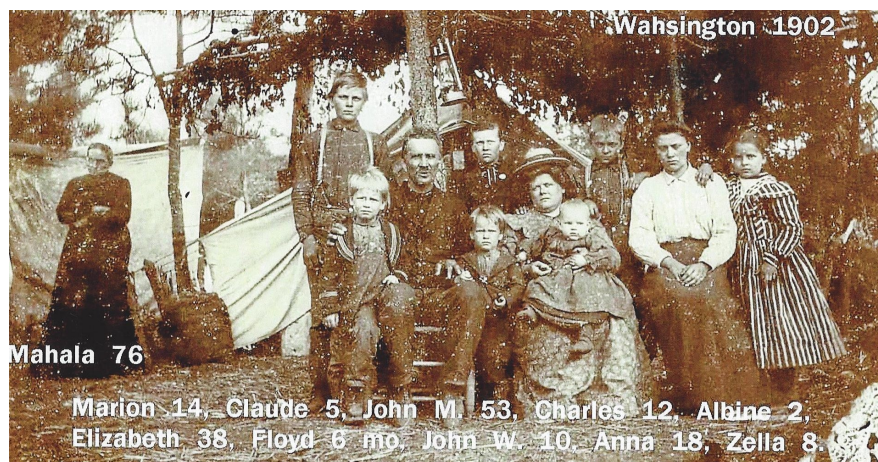
Submitted by Evelyn Weaver



### Category: Hats and Hair

Five ladies with great hats and hairdos  
"friends of Grandma"

Submitted by Steve Henry



### Category: Group

The John M. Clemons family had just arrived from Kentucky and was headed to Daisy, Washington, in 1902.

Submitted by David M. Hodson



### Category: Military

John Milton Hodson in Munich, Germany c. 1945, standing on the head of Adolf Hitler.

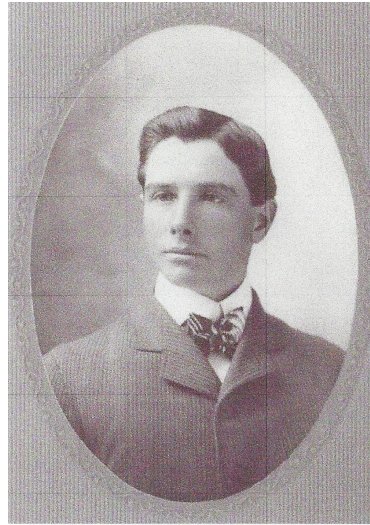
Submitted by David M. Hodson





### Category: Most Beautiful

Anna Belle Clemons c.1904; born in 1884; the only child to live out of four children born to Johan M. Clemons and 1st wife Sallie Tribue. Her mother died when she was born. Submitted by David M. Hodson



Joseph Clyde Stoker  
born June 30, 1881 Cache, Utah

### Category: Most Handsome

Joseph Clyde Stoker  
b. June 30, 1881 in Cache, Utah  
Submitted by Colista Bailey



### Category: Oldest

Three Small Town Dudes  
Joe DeLoria, Clark Nims and Ezra Sayre  
c. 1875 in Corinth, Saratoga, New York  
Submitted by Tom Sayre



The George Washington Clemons Homestead  
Daisy, Washington 1910 - 1915

### Category: Occupation

The George Washington Clemons Homestead in Daisy, Washington, 1910-1915. He cut the homestead out of the forest, milled the logs, built the house, and made the fences.

Submitted by David M. Hodson





Category: Open

Ashley Plummer Whipple and his friend on bicycles, c 1901

Submitted by Anne Billeter



Category: Transportation

Great-uncle Moody Henry and friend

Submitted by Steve Henry

