

HENRY MILLER

THE GRAVE OF HENRY MILLER IS ONE OF THOSE THAT WERE RELOCATED FROM AN EARLIER CEMETERY LOCATED NEAR THE CORNER OF THIRD AND PINE STREETS. THE MARKER INSTALLED SOMETIME AFTER IT WAS RELOCATED HAD HIS DEATH DATE INCORRECT. ADDITIONALLY THE STONE WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED IN A VANDALISM SPREE IN THE EARLY 1990S. THE DAMAGE WAS SO SEVERE THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO RESTORE IT TO THE ORIGINAL UPRIGHT POSITION. THE JIGSAW PUZZLE PIECES OF THE MARKER WERE LAID FLAT IN A BED OF CONCRETE BY THE PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF IN ORDER TO PRESERVE WHAT LITTLE WAS LEFT.

HENRY MILLER WAS BORN IN OHIO ON JULY 3, 1829. IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT THE DEATH DATE ON THE ORIGINAL HEADSTONE WAS INCORRECT, HENRY MILLER DIED ON NOVEMBER 30, 1872, THE FIRST DAY OF THE MODOC WAR.

IT IS UNCERTAIN WHEN HE CAME TO THIS AREA, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT HE WAS HOMESTEADING IN THE AREA AROUND THE LAVA BEDS IN THE EARLY 1870'S. MR. MILLER RESIDED THERE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS WHERE HE WAS ENGAGED IN STOCK RAISING. HE EMPLOYED A NUMBER OF MODOCS AS HERDERS.

THIS WAS A VERY TROUBLED TIME, THE SETTLERS WERE COMING IN LARGE NUMBERS AND THE MODOC INDIANS WERE BEING FORCED ONTO A RESERVATION WITH THE KLAMATHS. THE MODOCS WERE GREATLY OUTNUMBERED BY THE KLAMATH'S AND WERE THE TARGETS OF CONSTANT HARASSMENT. WHEN THE CONDITIONS BECAME UNBEARABLE THE YOUNG MODOCS LEFT THE RESERVATION AND RETURNED TO THEIR HOMELANDS ALONG LOST RIVER.

HENRY MILLER AND OTHER FRIENDS OF THE MODOCS WERE TRYING TO GET AN AREA ON LOST RIVER SET ASIDE AS A RESERVATION. IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1872 ELIJAH STEEL ASKED HENRY MILLER TO SURVEY A 6 SQUARE MILE AREA AT THE MOUTH OF LOST RIVER TO BE USED AS THE RESERVATION. SCARFACE CHARLEY AND OTHER MODOC LEADERS SAT DOWN WITH HENRY MILLER, THE ONE SETTLER THE INDIANS TRUSTED, A MAN WHO LIVED ALONGSIDE THEM WITH A COMPLETE LACK OF TROUBLE. ON THAT THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MILLER TOLD THE MODOCS TRUTHFULLY THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF MILITARY PLANS TO ROUSE THE INDIANS. HE VOWED THAT SHOULD HE LEARN OF SUCH A RAID, HE WOULD WARN THEM. THAT WAS A PROMISE THAT WOULD SOON PROVE FATAL.

IN THE MEANTIME THE ARMY WAS DETERMINED TO MOVE THEM BACK TO THE RESERVATION. CAPTAIN JACK'S BAND WAS CAMPED ON THE WEST SIDE OF LOST RIVER, HOOKA JIM'S BAND WAS ON THE OPPOSITE BANK. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOVEMBER 30TH SOLDIERS RAIDED THE VILLAGES. THE SLEEPING

MODOCS WERE TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE, AS A RESULT MANY OF THEIR NUMBER WERE KILLED INCLUDING WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY.

HOOKA JIM AND A SMALL BAND SOON SET OUT WITH REVENGE IN MIND. THEY RODE ALONG THE NORTHERN SHORE OF TULE LAKE ATTACKING THE SETTLERS. THE RENEGADES ONLY KILLED MEN, LEAVING THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNHARMED.

AS THEY RODE UP TO THE HENRY MILLER HOMESTEAD HE RAISED AN ARM IN GREETING. HE WAS SHOT AND KILLED IMMEDIATELY, NEVER KNOWING OF THE RAID ON THE MODOC CAMP.

IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO KNOW THAT THE MILLER HOMESTEAD WAS A COUPLE OF MILES SOUTH OF PRESENT DAY MALIN.

IN 2014 RYAN BARTHOLOMEW PRESENTED A PROPOSAL TO THE KCHS TO HAVE A NEW MARKER PLACED ON HENRY MILLER'S GRAVE, WITH THE MALIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAYING HALF THE COST. THE PRICE FOR THE NEW STONE WAS \$1250. THE REMAINDER WAS PAID WITH KCHS FUNDS, WITH A PORTION COMING FOR MONEY LEFT OVER FROM THE DONATIONS MADE TO THE LIZ BUDY MEMORIAL FUND. LIZ'S HUSBAND JERRY AND DAUGHTER PHAEDRA WERE CONTACTED AND APPROVED THE USE OF THAT MONEY.

THE OLD STONE WAS LEFT IN PLACE, WITH THE NEW MARKER PLACED IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION AT THE HEAD OF THE GRAVE AS DECREED BY THE OREGON HISTORIC CEMETERIES COMMISSION.