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March 2013

Davidson Family Biographies

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Recommended Citation

Teal-Cribbs, Brittney, "Davidson Family Biographies" (2013). *Butler Family Descendants' Biographies*. 10.
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Davidson Family Biographies

Elijah A. Davidson

Elijah A. Davidson (1783-1870) was born in Rutherford County, North Carolina, to Alexander Davidson and Ann Bridges. He married Margaret Murphy (1785-1864), daughter of John Murphy and Rachel Cook(e), and sister to Rachel Butler on February 4, 1802. He subsequently served in the War of 1812, and then moved to Kentucky in 1818, before settling in Warren County, Illinois in 1831. Originally ordained a Baptist minister in 1824, Elijah and several other community members in Illinois founded a Disciples of Christ Church in the 1830s, from which was born the idea to travel to the Oregon Territory. In Illinois, the Davidson family also became friends with the Butlers, and Elijah's daughter Mary Ann eventually married Ira Frances Marion Butler in 1835. Elijah traveled to the Oregon Territory in 1850 with the Whitman family. He married twice, first to Margaret Murphy (1785-1864) in 1802 and then to Margaret McBride, originally the wife of Dr. James McBride, in 1865. In total, he had twelve children with Margaret, all of whom survived childhood. He is buried with his wife in the Butler Davidson Cemetery.

Children of Elijah A. Davidson:

- Carter Tarrant Davidson (1802-1882); married Elizabeth (Betsey) Shirley in 1828
- Hosea M. Davidson (1804-1873); married Julia Ann Jamieson
- William Murphy Davidson (1807-1837); married Elizabeth Deweese in 1830
- Hannah Davidson (1809-1889); married Josiah Whitman in 1832
- John C. Davidson (1811-1845); married Julia Ann Whitman in 1835
- Mary Ann Davidson (1814-1888); married Ira. F. M. Butler (1812-1909) in 1835
- Margaret E. Davidson (1816-1887); married William Mason in 1834
- Elijah Barton Davidson (1819-1888); married Soloma Jones (1822-1909) in 1840; buried with his wife in Sparlin Cemetery, Josephine County, Oregon; his son Elijah J. Davidson (1849-1927) discovered the Oregon Caves
- Rachel Davidson (1821-1895); married George Deweese in 1837; died in Napa, California
- Elizabeth Thurston Davidson (1823-1896); married Squire Stoten Whitman (1818-1892) in 1839
- Sarah H. Davidson (1825 -1882); married Thomas Hartzwell Lucas (1824-1908) in 1844; buried with her husband in the Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Alexander Bridges Davidson (1829-1862); married Elizabeth Ann Burford in 1860

Land Claim: T8S R5W secs 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36

Mary Ann Davidson Butler

Mary Ann Davidson Butler (1814-1888) was the daughter of Elijah and Margaret Davidson. She was born in Barren County, Kentucky, but moved to Illinois in 1831. On November 5, 1835 she married Ira Frances Marion Butler (1812-1909), and then accompanied him to the Oregon Territory in 1853 with their six children. Two of her eight children died before making the trip, and she had another child in 1858. She died on June 29, 1888 and is buried with her husband in the Butler Davidson Cemetery.

Children of Mary Ann Davidson Butler:

- Newton H. Butler (1837-1889); buried in the Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Paradine Butler (1839-1859); married William F. Reynolds; buried in the Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Cyrus B. Butler (1841-1842)
- Asa Douglas Butler (1843-1923); married Melvina (Mellie) Katherine Morris (1846-1879) in 1868 and Hazeltine Gam in 1886
- Augustus Peter Butler (1846-1887); buried in the Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Mary Elizabeth Butler (1849-1851)
- Margaret (Maggie) Butler (1852-1939); buried in the Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Alice (Allie) Butler (1858-1940); buried in the Butler Davidson Cemetery; Margaret and Alice employed young college students to work at the family home on East Main Street throughout their lives, employing more than 40 students over the years

Sarah Davidson Lucas

Sarah Davidson Lucas (1825-1882) was the youngest daughter of Elijah and Margaret Davidson. She married Thomas Hartwell Lucas (1824-1908), and traveled with him and their first two children to the Oregon Territory in 1850. In 1856 she and her husband donated some of their land to the proposed Monmouth University (now Western Oregon University). She bore five more children while living in the Oregon Territory, and they are buried together in the Butler Davidson Cemetery.

Children of Sarah Davidson Lucas:

- Smith W. Lucas (1846-1890); buried in Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Amanda Lucas (1848-1857); buried in Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Marsham Albert Lucas (1850-1921); married Jane Gibson and Margaret Ann Turner
- William M. Lucas (1852-1906); buried in Butler Davidson Cemetery
- Thaddeus Lucas (1856-1928); married Lucinda Eleanor Burch in 1886
- Benjamin F. Lucas (1860-1937); married Sidney Katherine Nelson in 1889
- Orren Lucas (1862-1863); buried in Butler Davidson Cemetery