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# JOAQUIN MILLER

## NEWSLETTER

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June 2006

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*This is a short newsletter but there is a great Happening coming along that everyone might want to attend!*

### Happenings

For those of you fortunate enough to be in the Oakland California area July 29, 2006 you can hear an address on "The History of Joaquin Miller and his Influence on the Oakland Hills" by Rex Burress. Rex is to be the principal speaker (health permitting). at a meeting of the Alameda County Historical Society .to be held on the deck of the Woodminster Theater in Joaquin Miller Park. The Theater is only about 500 yards from JM's Abbey. Below the theater are the Cascades bordered by redwood trees, each dedicated to some specific writer.. Don't forget to stop at the Ranger Station and see Rex's painting of Joaquin Miller. This will be a once in a life time opportunity to relive the history of the park with someone who has spent a lifetime on its trails. For directions see:  
<http://www.woodminster.com/Webpages/GettingHere/Directions.html>

For reservations see the following:

Alameda County Historical Society  
Summer Excursion  
Saturday, July 29, 2006  
at historic Joaquin Miller Park  
3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland

Our speaker, Rex Burress, author, naturalist and historian, will talk on the life of Joaquin Miller and the park. Joaquin Miller was an Indian fighter, pony-express rider, lawyer, judge, gold prospector and poet who purchased the land in 1886 and planted thousands of trees. We will also visit the many

monuments he built and the Abbey, a National Landmark after lunch.

**11:30 am** at the Woodminster Amphitheater and Cascade, the Cathedral or "Temple in the woods" that was built by the WPA and completed in 1941 dedicated to California writers and poets.

We will enjoy lunch on the roof of the theater overlooking the bay and the spectacular cascade. The program follows lunch. Parking is adjacent to the theater. Directions will be distributed for the monument tour, via car, led by Rex Burress.

Enter the park at the Woodminster Theater sign at Sanborn Drive..8 miles from Hwy.#13 on Joaquin Miller Road. Follow the sign to the theater. Parking is adjacent to the theater.

Please send your \$15.00 check per person by Friday, July 21 to:

Alameda County Historical Society,  
PMB 484 Lake Park Ave, Oakland, CA 94610

Question? Please call Anne Woodell at 510-339-2818

Clip and mail:

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**Reservation for Saturday, July 29, 2006**

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Sandwich/box lunch preference:**

Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

## Genealogical Flash

If the World Tree on Ancestry.com is right, JM could have written and bragged endlessly about his family and he wouldn't have been lying about his times as so many tried to say he was doing when writing about our early times. It seems he was even related to Daniel Boone! Think what JM could have done with that in London if he hadn't been so bent on making his reputation just on his own.

Ancestry.com says JM's maternal grandfather John Daniel Witt (son of Michael Witt and Mary Boone) was born in 1780 in Greensboro, Guilford Co., N.C. and d. 28 Sept. 1847 in Randolph, IN.. He m. Elizabeth Fall in 1801 in Guilford Co. N.C where she had been b. 13 Oct. 1784. She d. 1 Feb. 1836 in Union Co. IN.

John D. Witt and Elizabeth (Fall) Witt had George W. Witt 28 Dec. 1802 in Greensboro, Guilford Co. N.C.; Daniel Boone Witt b. 25 Dec. 1806 also in Greensboro; Salome Witt b. 25 Oct. 1808 also in Greensboro; then Andrew Witt b.11 Mar 1811 in New Kent Co, VA, formerly King & Queen Co.VA ; and Elizabeth Witt b. 6 May 1813 back in Greensboro; then JM's mother Margaret Witt b. 12 Apr. 1816 in Winchester, Adams Co. OH; and lastly John F. Wittb. 25 Dec. 1818 in Silver Creek IN.

## Research

For those interested in researching JM's first white wife, "Minnie Myrtle" Teressa A. Dyer, according to the 1860 U.S. Federal census some interesting information comes to light.

### 1860 Census Curry Co. OR Port Orford:

Aaron Dyer	60 b. Maryland	ca. 1800
Sarah	48 b. OH	ca 1812
Teressa A.	18 b. IN	ca 1842
James M.	15 b. IN	ca 1845
Mary F.	9 b. OH	ca 1851
Charles Hilburn	25 b. Maine	ca 1835
Emma Hilburn	23 b. OH	ca 1837

(Emma is known to be Teressa's {Minnie Myrtle's} sister) [I have found Hilburn and Hillburn].

And on the next farm to them (conceivably a son except he was born in IN before Emma):

George M. Dyer (miner)	25 b IN	ca 1835
Fanny E. Dyer	20 b. IN	ca 1840

Thus Aaron Dyer from Maryland married Sarah from OH, had Emma in OH in 1837, Teressa A in 1842 in IN , James M, in 1845 in IN , and Mary F. in 1851 in OH.

Were these people of Quaker descent, as was Joaquin Miller's father and would that account for the to-ing and fro-ing between births? Minnie was said to be Catholic.

Incidentally there were other Dyers in nearby Oregon locations in 1860.

### Charcoal Sketches Series

A few copies of **Port Orford** (Vol. 1) and **Yreka** (Vol. 2) @ \$4.95 each (+\$1.50 s&h) and **Alaska and the Klondike** (Vol. 3) @ \$9.95 (+\$1.50 s&h) are still available. address below.