

JOAQUIN MILLER

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to The Joaquin Miller Newsletter Vol. III No. 8, the first to be published on our www.joaquinmiller.com web site. We look forward to your input. Past newsletters, published by donation subscriptions, will soon appear here beginning with Vol. I No. 1 so that you will not miss out on our discoveries to date. The object of the newsletter is to present the truth about the life and writings of Joaquin Miller and so to correct the misinformation and mythology that have, over time, encrusted his work and his life story.

Reactions to our new site www.joaquinmiller.com

Barclay Bates writes: I myself have been focusing on the sad life of Minnie Myrtle, with an eye to developing and publishing a historical article on the lady in some place like the *Oregon Historical Review*. Your on-line chronology has been of immense help in this endeavor, leading me to much useful information at the Knight Library in Eugene, the Oregon State Archives, and other sources. In the period 1873-1883, during which she apparently traveled the country lecturing, I have found little news of her—but I haven't yet thoroughly reviewed your chronology for that time.

Julie Cassidy of the Heritage Resources Dept. of Mt. Shasta Ranger Station writes: Congratulations on your web-site. I browsed through it and was very impressed!!!

Alan Rosenus: CONGRATULATIONS to you (and to Scotty). The Joaquin Miller site is gobsmacking, as the Brits would say, and the year by year bibliography truly astonishing. What a contribution! Glory be! Three Cheers! Hiner is cheering too and owes you a lot. New writers and readers using the www.joaquinmiller.com site e-mail their thanks for the "chronological arrangement." Phoebe Cutler is writing on the history of Joaquin Miller Park and Rob Boyle is writing about his Great Aunt Gertrude Boyle. They are now exchanging data through our editor Margaret Guilford-Kardell (MGK). (Note: We use initials as often as possible.) Others, like Nancy Bennett, have enlisted MGK's aid in reading pieces of JM's correspondence in her possession.

Fred Granata (FG), a long time contributor to the newsletter sends us our first reader input for this newsletter: an obituary from *The Eureka Reporter* 25 July 2008 re: Loudon Blandon McCormack aka "Elbie" or "Mac" who was born April 18, 1916, in San Jose, Calif., and passed away at his new home in Fortuna on July 24, 2008, at age 92, with

his family at his side. Besides his 31 great grandchildren and eight great great grandchildren he is survived by his brother Rex McCormack (Edna) of Stockton and sister Maud Miller-Hall of Stockton; and several nieces and nephews. "Mac" was the great grandson of Joaquin Miller, "Poet of the Sierras," and Henry Mead Bland, poet and educator. Miller's grandson took the surname of McCormack and he married the daughter of Miller's dear friend Henry Mead Bland.

Bibliography Additions

Fred Granata (FG) also sends us our first additional information re the Bibliography. See *Secondary Sources 1886* re Charles Wood Irish. John P. Irish was a great friend of Joaquin Miller in Miller's later years

Biographical Note

Charles Wood Irish was born in New York City on February 11, 1834, the son of Frederick Macy Irish and Elizabeth Ann Robinson. He was raised and educated in Iowa. In 1855, he married Susannah Abigail Yarbrough. They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Ruth (Mrs. Charles H. Preston). As an engineer and surveyor, Irish served in a number of capacities. He was a city engineer for Iowa City and the first county surveyor in Tama County. In addition, he was a chapter member of both the Iowa Society of Civil Engineers and the Agassiz Society of Iowa City.

Irish was involved with the first attempt to build a railroad across Iowa in the 1850s. Later he worked as a surveyor in the West during the construction of such railroad lines as the Chicago-Northwestern and the Atchison, Topeka and Sante Fe. He was appointed United States Surveyor General for Nevada by President Cleveland in 1886 and in 1893 was called to Washington to head the Bureau of Irrigation and Inquiry. At the time of his death in 1904, he was serving as the Deputy Mining Surveyor of Nevada. In addition to being both an engineer and surveyor, Irish was a noted botanist, geologist, and astronomer. His observations of the total eclipse of the sun in 1869 at Iowa City and Nevada in 1889 resulted in international recognition. Charles Wood Irish died September 27, 1904, at Gold Creek, Nevada.

Scope and Contents

The Papers of Charles Wood Irish are arranged alphabetically by folder title and chronologically within each folder. Materials include correspondence, diaries, letterpress books, surveyor notebooks, and terrain profiles. These papers reflect various aspects of Irish's career, including early railroad surveying done in Iowa and the West during the 1850s to the 1880s; Bureau of Irrigation activity, 1893 -- 1896; western mining data, 1889 -- 1900; and correspondence 1852 -- 1904, including letters from Joaquin Miller and John P. Irish.

Special Collections Department, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1420, Phone: 319-335-5921, Fax: 319-335-5900, e-mail: lib-spec@uiowa.edu.

Box 1: 1880 -- 1882. Including Joaquin Miller, May 31, 1880 (photocopy) (72 items); 1887. Including Joaquin Miller, January 10, 1887; February 3, 1887 (photocopies) (29 items).

Box 2: 1890. Including Joaquin Miller, April 10, 1890 (photocopy) (35 items).

