

**READERS' UPDATES OF THE
JOAQUIN MILLER TIMELINE
(Jo-Anne Flanders et al as of January 2008)**

Joaquin Miller did not set out to be an historian, a miner, or a pony express rider, or even a lawyer but that is how he made a living. All the while he yearned to write, to be a journalist, a poet and a playwright.. And those endeavors eventually made him famous.

Most readers take his novel *Life Amongst the Modocs* as an historical basis for his life. Since he was actually living with the *Wintu*, not the Modocs, it is obvious he was writing a novel, with himself as the hero fighting on behalf of the Indians.

Many readers have since found historical data further fleshing out his work and corroborating or correcting some of his dates. Here are their results so far.

Readers are: AR, refers to Alan Rosenus; BM, Bill Miesse; BSL, B.S. Lawson; DF, Dennis Freeman; DH, Don Hislop, neighbor, after 1947; GMM, George Melvin Miller; HW, Harr Wagner; J-AF, Jo-Anne Flanders; JC, Julie Cassidy; JJM, Juanita aka Joaquina Miller; JM, Joaquin Miller; MGK, Margaret Guilford-Kardell; OWF, O.W. Frost; and WLS, William L. Sullivan.

1812 Hulings Miller's father (Joaquin's grandfather) died and was buried at Fort Meigs, Ohio, in the War of 1812 (JM).

7/4/1812, Hulings was born in Cincinnati (his Eugene City obituary said Pennsylvania) (J-AF). Quite possible as there was a large Hulings family in Pennsylvania and his mother may have been a Hulings (MGK). Hulings married Margaret DeWitt (later, Witt) 1/3/1836 (J-AF).

1837 John D. Miller was born (MGK).

1838 John D Miller, JM's older brother was born (JA-F).

1839 Cincinnati Hiner Miller was born (MGK).

1839/40 In the 1840 census, Franklin County, Indiana, the Hulings Miller family had two male children (DF). Since John D. was the eldest, the second was Cincinnati Hiner (called "Nat" by his parents, Hiner by friends, later "Joaquin" by Ina Coolbrith, then himself) who was born in Liberty, Union County, Indiana; James was born next; and Ella was born in 1852 or earlier; at some point the family moved to the Miami Reserve (Indian) in Indiana (BSL).

3/17/1852 Hulings Miller family left for Oregon, crossing the Missouri River on 5/15/1852 (BSL); they arrived near Coburg, Oregon about October (JJM) and farmed two donation land claims amounting to 320 acres (HW). The family knew "Mountain Joe" De Blondey there (BSL).

1853 “Nat” helped build the family home on the farm near Coburg (MGK).

10/23/1854 (OWF and AR) (1855, WLS) “Nat” and George Willoughby ran away to California, after injuring a cow, according to youngest brother George Melvin, born in 1853 in Coburg. “Nat” would have been about 14 years old, if born in 1840. He was there several years, with miners, Indians, and Mexicans (JJM). “According to notes copied from my diary I had left Oregon Oct. 23/54, arriving in Yreka on the 12th of Nov./54. I spent the winter mining and cooking for miners in that vicinity in company with some Oregonians that I had formerly known. I made enough to buy me a good horse, a mule and a good outfit.” He was also writing poetry (MGK).

1/1855 Miller went to Humbug Creek, California (OWF).

Spring, 1855 Worked for Joseph “Joe” De Blondey at his hostelry on the Sacramento River (JM) and fought Indians at the (6/26/56) Battle of Castle Rocks in the Shasta/Siskiyou area of CA, There he was wounded in the face (MGK). and/or probably through his neck; he was not expected to live (OWF and HW). He would then have been about 15 years old, and all descriptions of him called him a “boy” (HW *et al.*). He recovered at Portuguese Flats and move on south to Shasta City (MGK). He mined a year at Squawtown near Shasta City, California leaving in July of 1856 for Lower Soda Springs and later to Squaw Valley (OWF).

Winter, 1856/57 Spent among the (*Wintu*, “Digger”, WLS) Indians at Squaw Valley on the McCloud River near Mt. Shasta (BSL). (OWF) simply says 1856.

Summer, 1857 Spent herding horses in *Now-ow-wa* pasture (WLS) and married [according to his novel (MGK)] “Paquita” (JM, WLS) (*Sutatot*, AR) (later known as Amanda Brock) about Oct. (OWF believes this was about 6/1859.) She was the daughter (JM) (MGK) (or granddaughter WLS) of chief *Worrotetot*, meaning “Short One,” called Black Beard by the whites (WLS). Recorded *Wintu* vocabulary during this period (AR).

8/1857 Mined near Yreka, Siskiyou County (JC). Began writing to newspaper editors (MGK).

Late 1857 Forced into the party revenging the early 1857 Pit River Massacre (Pit River Indians’ massacre of farmers) (OWF and JJM) ambushed when he left the militia, and he received bullets in his arm and leg (HW) (right arm broken and “flesh torn in many places”) and was nursed back to health by Indians (JM).

11/1857-2/1858 Columbia College in Eugene City, had opened fall of 1855 (OWF) (historical marker says 1856-1860) for “a short stint” of about 2-3 months (OWF and BSL). JM and his brother John D. probably attended some winter sessions (MGK). This was followed by a few months of prospecting and teaching school in Washington Territory (BSL).

Spring, 1858 Taught school near Vancouver, Washington, on the Columbia River (OWF), after which he returned to his Indian friends (BSL).

8/1858, Cali-Shasta, daughter of “Paquita” and [presumably (MGK)] C.H. Miller, was born (WLS).

1858 Miller was not paid his share, cook’s wages, so he sold the mine owner’s team and left Hirst (Hurst, Hearst), the mine owner swore out a warrant; Constable Bradley pursued Miller, who shot at and wounded Bradley while in Siskiyou County. The miners agreed with Miller’s action and he was not further pursued or charged (MGK).

1858/59 Again attended college in Eugene, OR, for a few winter months (MGK).

1859 (2-7/1859) Worked in Deadwood (WLS *et al.*). Mined, contributed poems to local papers and was jailed in Shasta Co. for horse theft (6/10/59 (OWF)) .

1859 Was involved with helping the Indians in an uprising during which time he, according to his novel *Life Amongst the Modocs*, stole a horse in Shasta County and was caught and jailed there in Shasta (MGK).

7/4/1859 Escaped from the Shasta jail (MGK) with an outlaw (OWF, WLS) and went back to the Indians (OWF).

Late 1859 Kidnapped by Sam Lockhart, twin brother of a Pit River Massacre victim, and taken to Yreka jail (overnight) and released by judge (WLS). Lockhart was “... out again avenging his brother’s death. He stumbled onto our cabin there on Brock's Creek off of the Pit River in late 1859 (JM).” [See 1/7/60 (MGK)]

10/20-21//59 JM, then safely back teaching school in Clark, Washington Territory, took his students to see the ship when General Winfield Scott (1786-1866), on his way to San Juan Island, landed at Fort Vancouver, Washington across the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon, where JM was studying law in George Williams’ office and often returned to the family farm and Eugene (MGK). Later Williams was United States Attorney General under President Grant (OWF).

1/7/60 In Shasta County a *Shasta Courier* article mentioned JM and in Siskiyou County the Grand Jury brought before the Court of Sessions, Judge Rosborough, presiding, several indictments, one of which was an indictment ‘for assault with intent to commit murder’ by the People (vs. Hiner) Miller but Miller was already back in Oregon (MGK).

Late April/1861 Went to Walla Walla, WA, with his brother John and others (WLS); two brothers and several cousins went east of Oro Fino, ID (OWF).

Winter, 1861-62 Became a partner in a pony-express service from the Salmon River district of Idaho mines to Walla Walla (WLS and JJM).

Spring, 1862 Bought a house in Eugene City (southeast corner of 5th and Oak, (WLS and GMM) and he co-partnered the Eugene City *Democratic Register* newspaper, as well as its successor, the *Eugene City Review*, with Andrew Noltner (OWF and WLS).

9/12/1862 Cincinnatus Hiner Miller married Theresa (“Minnie Myrtle”) Dyer at Port Orford, OR, after an exchange of letters and a weekend romance (WLS and OWF).

10/1862 Newspaper was suspended by General George Wright because of Miller’s sympathy with the South (WLS and OWF).

Nov. 1/1862 – Feb. 14/1863 Edited the successor *Eugene City Review*.

4-8/1863 The young couple lived in San Francisco while he tried to enter the legal and newspaper fields in San Francisco (MGK).

9/1863 Returned by ship with Minnie Myrtle to her parents’ home near Port Orford where she would await the birth of their first child (MGK).

10/1863 Eveline Maud was born, shortly after her father moved to Canyon City, OR, to practice law, after George Williams told him of an opening there. He first mined (WLS), then practiced law and worked his claim (OWF) for two years (JJM).

3/1864 Led a posse of miners against Indians to recover stolen horses and cattle; they were gone 24 days (OWF).

6/1864 Took Minnie Myrtle and Maud to Canyon City (WLS).

1866 Son George Brick Miller was born.

6/1866 Elected Judge of Grant County and served three years (until 7/69, OWF and JJM).

Late March/1868 Took Minnie Myrtle and two children to Eugene, and they went on to Port Orford, while he went to Portland and arranged for the self-publication of his first book of poems, *Specimens* (OWF and WLS).

Fall/1868 Minnie Myrtle and two children stayed at the Renfrew Hotel in Eugene and were seen in the company of actor/gambler/thief Mr. Hill(s). (MGK)

Spring/1869 Took pregnant Minnie Myrtle and their two children back to Port Orford (WLS).

1869 *Joaquin Et Al*, second and larger volume of verse was also published in Portland (OWF). Book of poetry, *Sackcloth and Ashes*, was written but not published that year (BM).

8/1869 Henry Mark Miller was born (OWF).

Spring/1870 Minnie Myrtle filed for divorce in Coos County (WLS).

4/19/1870 Divorce granted in Eugene City, Lane County, Oregon, and the two older children were placed in the custody of Minnie Myrtle's mother, with Henry Mark Miller in the custody of his mother. According to sworn statement, Joaquin was 29 years old (MGK) [Actual birth date still unproven MGK]

5-8/1870 His political career ruined, he sold everything (MGK), paid off the mortgage on his parents' Coburg farm (JJM), spent two weeks with his two children in Port Orford in June before leaving for San Francisco (MGK). There he adopted the name Joaquin from his poem about the bandit Joaquin Murietta (MGK) took a train to New York City, where he first used "Joaquin" as his first name, and sailed for Glasgow and London, England in August (WLS).

1871 Published *Pacific Poems* in London; "favorable reviews led to the publication of *Songs of the Sierras* and fame" (OWF), published in London (OWF and WLS) and Boston (WLS).

Late Summer/1871 Returned to the U.S.A. and to the Easton, Pennsylvania bedside of his dying brother John, who died 9/9/71 (WLS), and he wrote "Olive Leaves" (JJM). (His sister Ella [Mrs. John Luckey] also died in 1871.) He then went to Portland and Eugene and the McCloud River, where he re-united with Cali-Shasta (now 13 [J-AF] or 14 [WLS] and took her to Ina Coolbrith in San Francisco (WLS). [Actually his friend Jim Brock took Cali-Shasta to San Francisco (MGK.)] He then went on to Brazil, Europe, and Italy (JJM).

1871 In Siskiyou Co., CA Nov. 3-4, en route north to Port Orford, OR, after his brother's death (MGK).

1872/78 Between trips abroad he revisited his parents and children in OR. His brother George handled funding for them (MGK).

1872-1873 Modoc Wars occurred and Indians were put on reservations.

1873 Published his autobiographical novel, possibly his best known work today, *Life Amongst the Modoc* (MGK). *Songs of the Sun-Lands* was published in Boston. *Unwritten History: Life Amongst the Modocs* was published in London (OWF and WLS), as well as in Hartford in 1874 (WLS).

- 1875** *The Ship in the Desert* was published in Boston (WLS).
- 1876** *First Fam'lies of the Sierras* was published in Chicago, and *The One Fair Woman* in London (WLS).
- 1877**, *Songs of the Mexican Seas* was published in Boston (OWF said 1887), and *The Baroness of New York* was published in New York(WLS).
- 1878** *Songs of Italy* was published in Boston, and *Songs of Far-away Lands* was published in London.
- 1878** While in New York he wrote "A Rough Sketch by One Who Was there." *The Golden Era* (February 16,1878).
- 1879** In New York City married Abigail Leland (JJM), who was a hotel heiress (OWF & WLS). They had a daughter, Juanita, aka Joaquina, Miller in 1880 (JJM). In 1918, she married John Reavis; divorced; 12/1920, she married John Reid (Juan Miller); divorced in 1922; later married the Sun and possibly later the Man in the Moon (DH)!
- 1881** Published *The Danites in the Sierras* in Chicago, *How to Win in Wall Street, By a Successful Operator* in New York, and *The Shadows of Shasta* in Chicago (WLS).
- 2/2/1883** Hulings Miller died, after an accident with his team of horses the previous December; his gravestone in the West Point Cemetery north of Coburg says 2/2/1882, but is wrong, as the news of his death was printed in *The Eugene City Guard* on 2/10/83 (MGK & J-AF).
- 1883** Minnie Myrtle, separated from her second husband T..E.L. Logan, whom she had married in 1877 (OWF) (BSL), came to see JM in New York (MGK). She suddenly sickened and died there (OWF).
- 1883** JM and Abbie separated (BSL), and he moved alone to Washington, D.C. (WLS). (OWF says they moved together to Washington and separated there, with Abbie returning to New York.)
- 1884** Published *Forty-nine: The Gold Seekers of the Sierras* and *Memorie and Rime* in New York (WLS).
- 1886** Published *The Destruction of Gotham* in New York (WLS); and co-edited *The Golden Era* with Harr Wagner (OWF).
- 1886** Moved to his "Hights" in Oakland, CA and later took his mother (Margaret Witt Miller) to live in the cottage he had built for her next to his on his 74 or so acres (MGK) (JMM)(WLS).

- 1887** William Randolph Hearst took over the management of the *S.F. Examiner* from his father, George Hearst. Miller was writing for the *Call* etc. (MGK).
- 1888** Started writing pseudonymous and signed articles for the *Examiner* and its editor Ambrose Bierce (MGK).
- 1890** Published *In Classic Shades and Other Poems* in Chicago (WLS).
- 1892** Published *Songs of Summer Lands* in Chicago (WLS).
- 1893** Published *The Building of the City Beautiful* in Chicago (WLS).
- 1894** Published *An Illustrated History of Montana* in Chicago (WLS).
- 1896** Published *Songs of the Soul* in San Francisco (WLS).
- 1897-98** Went to the Klondike (for 6 months - BSL) to report conditions of travel and life in the Klondike for the Hearst newspapers (OWF), between Circle City, AK, and Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada (WLS).
- 1899-1900** Went on a “lecture tour” (JJM); “vaudeville circuit” (WLS).
- 1900** Published *True Bear Stories* in Chicago and New York. He also published *Chants for the Boer* (WLS).
- 1903** Published *As It Was in the Beginning: a Poem*, in San Francisco (WLS).
- 1905** Miller and brother George, in Eugene, were both interested in land development in Florence, OR, which they thought a logical terminus of a road from New York to the Pacific Coast (MGK).
- 1905** Celebrated “Joaquin Miller Day” at Lewis & Clark Exposition July 15 in Portland, OR.
- 1907** Published *Light: a Narrative Poem* in Boston (WLS).
- 1908** Joaquin Miller and his brothers George and James were all present at the Rhododendron Festival in Florence, OR, May 20, where Joaquin crowned the Queen.
- 1909-1912** Published *Joaquin Miller’s Poems* in seven volumes in San Francisco (WLS) (OWF said *Poems* in six volumes in 1909-1910).
- 1911 (DH) or 1912** JM, Abbie Leland Miller, and Juanita aka Joaquina Miller, were reconciled after a separation of 30 years (*Liberty Express of Liberty*, IN).
- 2/17/1913** C. H. (“Joaquin”) Miller died; he was 73 or 74 years old, **if** his birth date was either 1839 or early 1840 (MGK).

- 1919** JJM sold most of “The Hights” to the City of Oakland for a park (DH).
- 1923** Editor Stuart P. Sherman published *The Poetical Works of Joaquin Miller* in New York (WLS).
- 1930** Editor Sidney A. Firman published *Overland in a Covered Wagon: an Autobiography* in New York (WLS).
- 1932** *A Royal Highway of the World* was published in Portland (WLS).
- 1936** Editor John S. Richards published *Joaquin Miller: His California Diary* in Seattle, WA (WLS).
- 1977** Editor Alan Rosenus published *Selected Writings of Joaquin Miller* in Eugene, OR (WLS).
- 1996** Margaret Guilford-Kardell started publishing the *Joaquin Miller Newsletter*.

See the bibliography for a complete listing of all works by and about Joaquin Miller. Obviously as more historical data have become available, historians have written differently about Joaquin Miller’s life and work. **Your corrections and additions are invited. Send to joaquinmillerinfo@comcast.net.**