



The Middlebusher Hotel and Post Office

EULA HOUSTON MIDDLEBUSER  
(1894-1986)  
FRED MERWIN MIDDLEBUSER  
(1900-1988)

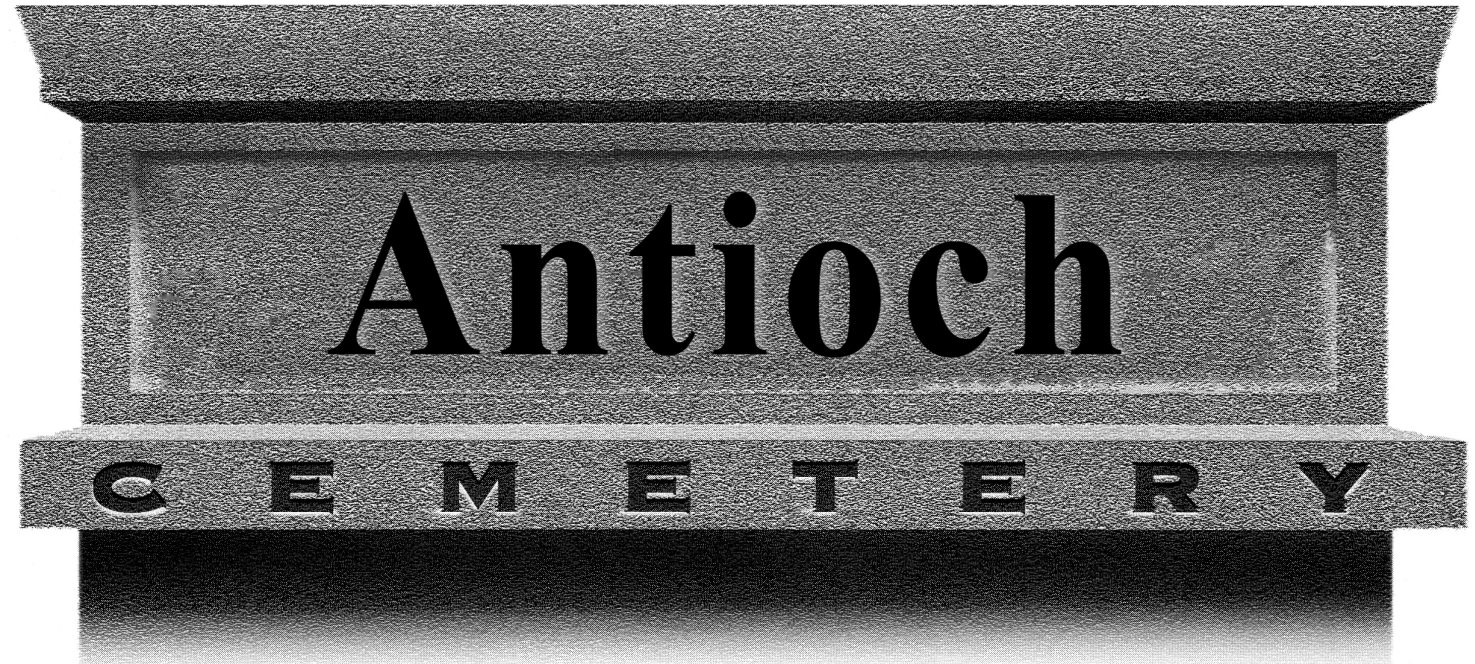
Both Fred and Eula Middlebusher rest in the Antioch Cemetery. Fred's mother was Mary Elizabeth Pankey Middlebusher and his father, Lewis Middlebusher, both interred in the Central Point. Lewis died in 1903 leaving behind his wife and son, Fred Merwin at which time Mary Pankey Middlebusher moved her family to Trail, Oregon where she kept a hotel and post office. Fred Merwin worked at Middlebusher's on the Rogue and by 1923 was advertising Red Crown Gasoline in a service station adjacent to the hotel. In 1924, the hotel advertised as The Sunset Hotel with cold, pure well water, well worth the stop on this popular route to Crater Lake. By 1927 the hotel and service station were advertised for sale and the hotel has since burned, with no trace left behind.

MILTON ASHWORTH  
SANDERSON (1912-1967)  
MYRTLE EVELYN ALEXANDER  
SANDERSON (1918-1967)

Milton and Evelyn Sanderson married in September 1933. A dance was held in honor of the newlyweds at the Beagle home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Sanderson, Milton's parents. On the evening of April 4, 1967, Milton and Evelyn were on their way to the bowling alley when a train hit their vehicle at the Table Rock Road intersection. Both Milton and Evelyn were killed. It was a foggy night, and the crossing had no lights or guard rails at the time. Milton and Evelyn rest together in Antioch Cemetery.



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The historic Antioch Cemetery is a little over 8.5 acres with nearly 3 acres now in use, located in the town once known as Beagle. The first recorded deed for the property was in 1889, when the Antioch School District purchased the parcel for \$30. The deed stipulated that the land was "to be used for school, church and graveyard purposes." The Antioch School was located to the north of the area beginning in the late 1860s and the burial ground to the south. A 1906 newspaper article notes the beauty of the many new and attractive marble work in the Antioch Cemetery crafted by the Medford monument makers Hicks & Kershaw. A new schoolhouse was built in 1921 and volunteers continued to maintain the cemetery and grounds until 1942 at which time there were 248 graves.

In 1942, Camp White took over the Antioch Cemetery grounds to use as an artillery range. The town of Beagle was leveled, the cemetery's

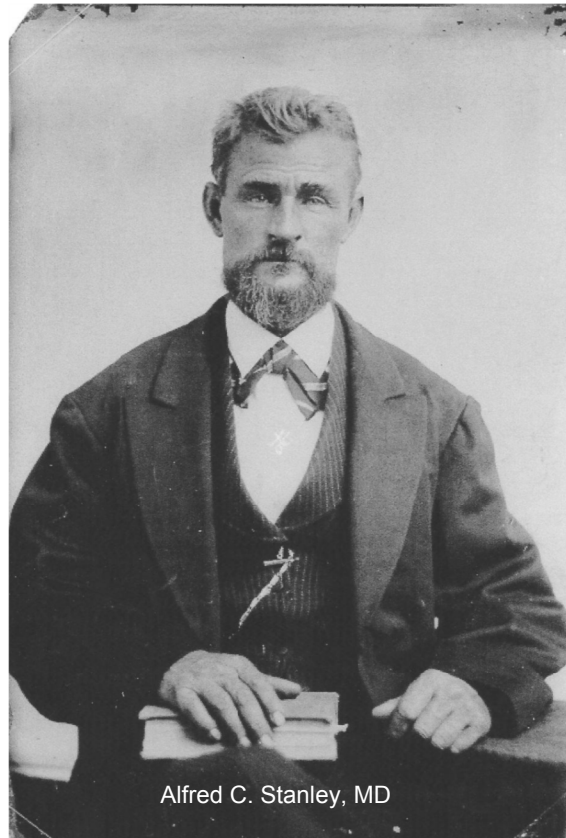


markers laid flat, and the graves covered with 1 foot of sand and 5 feet of soil. After the war, a contractor restored the cemetery, but no records existed to verify interments or markers. Many markers seem to be missing and others damaged, the inscription destroyed. A year later, the government put the cemetery up for sale as surplus property, and the newly formed Antioch Cemetery

Association won their cemetery back for \$60 in borrowed funds. Roger Roberts, Jackson County Surveyor (ret.), platted the graves and prepared the first accurate survey of the cemetery and mapped known graves.

Antioch Cemetery  
14350 Antioch Rd. near Sweet Ln.  
White City, Oregon

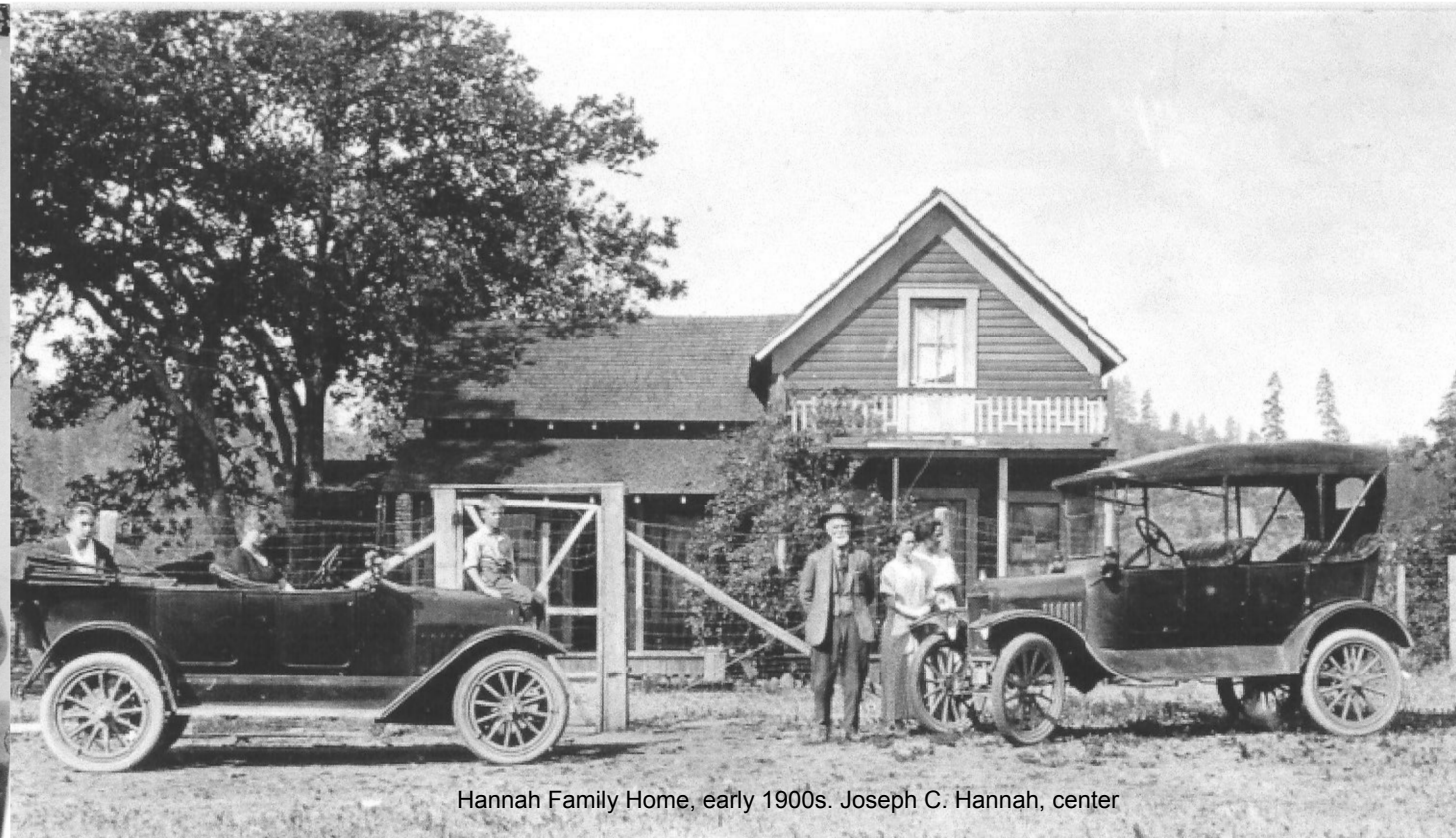




Alfred C. Stanley, MD

**ALFRED C. STANLEY, MD**  
(1813-1891)

According to Larsell's *The Doctor in Oregon*, Dr. Stanley came to Oregon in 1875, settling in Sams Valley. In a 1880 report of the Oregon State Medical Society, Dr. Stanley notes the prevalence of malaria fevers and occasionally a case of typhoid fever but that general health was good in Sams Valley and the mortality rate very low. At one time, Dr. Stanley practiced medicine in the first floor of his Gold Hill home on Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue and also made house calls. He also owned general merchandise stores in Tolo, Sams Valley and Gold Hill, served as mayor and council member of Gold Hill and served in the state legislature in 1880 and 1882.



Hannah Family Home, early 1900s. Joseph C. Hannah, center

**JOSEPH CARTER HANNAH**  
(1839-1928)

Hannah was the son of Josiah Hannah, a Missouri potter who arrived in the Rogue Valley in 1862 with his family. They settled on land 22 miles north of Medford on the Rogue River. Josiah's son Joseph was also a potter, referred to as the Rogue River potterman in newspapers of the day. The Hannah family's hand-thrown earthenware have characteristic marks and forms and a recognizable salt glaze; they also produced bricks and pipe. Josiah and Joseph's works are found throughout the Rogue Valley. Beagle resident and well-known salesman Perry Foster is reported as having found a good market in Medford for his wagon load of Joe Hannah's flower pots in 1895. The Hannah pottery works closed in the early 1900s as trains opened up the markets for

lower priced manufactured goods from the East Coast. Joseph Carter Hannah married Dr. Stanley's daughter Sedotha Lane Stanley Hannah, who passed away in 1914. Joseph died on March 30, 1928 at the Hillcrest Orchard home of his daughter, Mrs. Timothy Daily at the age of 88 years, 7 months, 3 days.

**PERRY FOSTER (1843-1940)**

Perry Foster came to Oregon by wagon train with the Hannah family in 1862. He homesteaded a ranch just north of Joseph Hannah. Perry Foster raised sheep, selling the wool at the Ashland Mills and was a good salesman handling some of the Hannah pottery. The *Mail Tribune* reports that he sold his 1,300 sheep to Mr. Coleman in 1897 and didn't know what to do next. In 1899, he was awarded guardianship

of his son Charles A. Foster's assets (\$449.40). Charles was then an inmate in the Oregon Insane Asylum. Vera Hannah remembers that Perry Foster often visited their family. In his advanced years, Perry would walk from his daughter's home (Onie French) near the Dodge Bridge to Jasper and Lillie Hannah's home. After his visit Vera and Lillie would drive him back to Perry's son's home above Reese Creek across the Rogue River. On the drive home, Perry would tell stories of the Oregon Trail in 1862, especially the river crossings when men would swim the rivers to cross with the horses.

**WILLIAM JASPER RODGERS**  
(1851-1925)

The Beagle Post Office was in operation from 1885 through 1942, when



Antioch School, circa 1913

Camp White took over the area. Its first postmaster was William Beagle or Milton Anthony Houston. William Jasper Rodgers was postmaster in 1916 and applied to the US Post Office Department to relocate the Beagle Post Office about 3/4 of a mile to the intersection of seven postal routes, at Antioch and Beagle Roads a few miles north of Upper Table Rock and northwest of the Rogue River. The request was approved in 1918. While C.S. Sanderson signs as postmaster on some 1918 documents, Rodgers was postmaster at the time of his death in 1925, according to newspaper reports on Jasper's sudden demise: "Mr. S. Pollard and Mr. Bowen are taking charge of the post office until another can be appointed." William's wife, Cynthia Louise Rodgers, died in 1947 but could not be buried with her husband and instead was interred in Redding, California.

**WILLIAM THOMAS HOUSTON**  
(1865-1942)  
**EMMA RODGERS HOUSTON**  
(1870-1961)

The Houston family settled along Rogue River Drive and the Rodgers family in Beagle and Antioch, then moved to Old Stage Road in Gold Hill. Both are old Southern Oregon families, and many generations rest in the Antioch Cemetery. When William Thomas Houston died in 1942 though, Antioch Cemetery was six feet under, in use as a military training ground, so William was laid to rest in the Central Point IOOF Cemetery. William's wife Emma Rodgers died in 1961, long after the Antioch Cemetery was restored, and chose to rest next to her husband in Central Point rather than with their families in Antioch.