In Freedom's Footsteps

Juneteenth Community History Walk

This program was created in 2023 for the Juneteenth holiday by the Willamette Heritage Center and Oregon Black Pioneers. For a digital copy of the map and more information about the Bayless family, scan this code:

Other Locations

Other places in Salem with Bayless family connections outside downtown Salem

Bayless Family Plot, Pioneer Cemetery

Commercial and Hoyt Streets

Mary Ann and Albert Bayless are buried in lot 369 alongside their daughter-in-law Maggie Adeline Randles and several members of the Drake family. A new headstone marks the spot, but the names are also visible in the cement curb around the plot. Mary Ann’s son George Reynolds is also buried in the cemetery, but location unknown.

St. Paul’s AME Church (1892-c. 1905)

Albert and Mary Ann Bayless were charter members of this church, joining in 1891, a year before the church building was built, conveniently just around the block from their own home.

Note this is a private residence. Please respect the privacy of the current residents.

Bayless Family Home 1892-1906

Albert and Mary Ann buy two lots at the southwest corner of River and 4th Streets in 1892. The Marion County Assessor’s records list a build date of 1900, making it possible that the structure that stands there today (although heavily modified) is likely at least in part the original Bayless home.

St. Paul’s AME Church, Salem. State Library of Oregon 2006.010.0705

Plat Map River Side Addition, Marion County Surveyor’s Office

*Note: Pine Street on this map is now called 4th Street.*
Albert Bayless purchased the two lots on the SE corner of Summer and Marion Streets, in the Piety Hill Neighborhood. Maps show a 1 1/2 story house with front porch and two one story extensions off the back. In this home the Bayless family hosted Salem’s 1879 Emancipation Jubilee celebration.

The 1872 Emancipation Jubilee celebration was held at the Reed Opera House, which is one of the few buildings downtown that still exists that the Bayless family would probably recognize.

According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert Bayless was listed as one of the community members who helped raise the subsidy that brought the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill to Salem in 1889, pledging 10 dollars.

Mary Ann’s son George Reynolds was an early volunteer firefighter in Salem. Records indicate he was volunteering as a firefighter as early as 1865 - likely with the Alert Hook & Ladder Co. There is also a George Reynolds and a George Randalls listed as members of the Tiger Fire Engine Company No. 2 in the 1870s, which may or may not be Mary Ann’s son. Even if not, the Tiger Fire Engine Hall on the south side of State just west of the alley (torn down in the 1900s) and the 1865 station on the southeast corner of State and Liberty were probably well known sites to George.

Bayless Family Home, 1874
According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert lived at the “Southeast corner of Mill and Liberty Streets” in Salem.

The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1871
(Marker is approximate) According to the 1871 Salem City Directory the Bayless family lived on Court Street between Front Street and Water Street. The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1877-1890
Albert Bayless purchased the two lots on the SE corner of Summer and Marion Streets, in the Piety Hill Neighborhood. Maps show a 1 1/2 story house with front porch and two one story extensions off the back. In this home the Bayless family hosted Salem’s 1879 Emancipation Jubilee celebration.

The 1872 Emancipation Jubilee celebration was held at the Reed Opera House, which is one of the few buildings downtown that still exists that the Bayless family would probably recognize.

Bayless Family Home, 1871
(Marker is approximate) According to the 1871 Salem City Directory the Bayless family lived on Court Street between Front Street and Water Street. The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1874
According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert lived at the “Southeast corner of Mill and Liberty Streets” in Salem.

Mary Ann’s son George Reynolds was an early volunteer firefighter in Salem. Records indicate he was volunteering as a firefighter as early as 1865 - likely with the Alert Hook & Ladder Co. There is also a George Reynolds and a George Randalls listed as members of the Tiger Fire Engine Company No. 2 in the 1870s, which may or may not be Mary Ann’s son. Even if not, the Tiger Fire Engine Hall on the south side of State just west of the alley (torn down in the 1900s) and the 1865 station on the southeast corner of State and Liberty were probably well known sites to George.

Bayless Family Home, 1874
According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert lived at the “Southeast corner of Mill and Liberty Streets” in Salem.

The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1871
(Marker is approximate) According to the 1871 Salem City Directory the Bayless family lived on Court Street between Front Street and Water Street. The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1877-1890
Albert Bayless purchased the two lots on the SE corner of Summer and Marion Streets, in the Piety Hill Neighborhood. Maps show a 1 1/2 story house with front porch and two one story extensions off the back. In this home the Bayless family hosted Salem’s 1879 Emancipation Jubilee celebration.

The 1872 Emancipation Jubilee celebration was held at the Reed Opera House, which is one of the few buildings downtown that still exists that the Bayless family would probably recognize.

Bayless Family Home, 1871
(Marker is approximate) According to the 1871 Salem City Directory the Bayless family lived on Court Street between Front Street and Water Street. The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1874
According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert lived at the “Southeast corner of Mill and Liberty Streets” in Salem.

Mary Ann’s son George Reynolds was an early volunteer firefighter in Salem. Records indicate he was volunteering as a firefighter as early as 1865 - likely with the Alert Hook & Ladder Co. There is also a George Reynolds and a George Randalls listed as members of the Tiger Fire Engine Company No. 2 in the 1870s, which may or may not be Mary Ann’s son. Even if not, the Tiger Fire Engine Hall on the south side of State just west of the alley (torn down in the 1900s) and the 1865 station on the southeast corner of State and Liberty were probably well known sites to George.

Bayless Family Home, 1874
According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert lived at the “Southeast corner of Mill and Liberty Streets” in Salem.

The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1871
(Marker is approximate) According to the 1871 Salem City Directory the Bayless family lived on Court Street between Front Street and Water Street. The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1874
According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert lived at the “Southeast corner of Mill and Liberty Streets” in Salem.

Mary Ann’s son George Reynolds was an early volunteer firefighter in Salem. Records indicate he was volunteering as a firefighter as early as 1865 - likely with the Alert Hook & Ladder Co. There is also a George Reynolds and a George Randalls listed as members of the Tiger Fire Engine Company No. 2 in the 1870s, which may or may not be Mary Ann’s son. Even if not, the Tiger Fire Engine Hall on the south side of State just west of the alley (torn down in the 1900s) and the 1865 station on the southeast corner of State and Liberty were probably well known sites to George.

Bayless Family Home, 1874
According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert lived at the “Southeast corner of Mill and Liberty Streets” in Salem.

The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.

Bayless Family Home, 1871
(Marker is approximate) According to the 1871 Salem City Directory the Bayless family lived on Court Street between Front Street and Water Street. The streets are now gone, taken over by the redevelopment of Riverfront Park, but you can imagine that the entire park area was mixed use residential and industrial area.