



# In Freedom's Footsteps

## Bayless Family

Juneenth Community History Walk



Cover collage: Emancipation Proclamation (National Archives). Juneenth flag. St. Paul AME Church, State Library of Oregon 2006.010.0705, cropped to woman who may be Mary Ann Bayless



### Program Partners



This program was created in 2023 for the Juneenth 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:

Albert and Mary Ann (Reynolds/Randles) Bayless were both born into slavery. Albert was born in Tennessee in 1819. He escaped slavery by travelling to California during the Gold Rush and started a new life mining, eventually moving north to Salem and opening up a successful blacksmithing shop. Mary Ann was born in Kentucky in 1822 or 1823. She was manumitted by her enslavers when she was a teenager and given her freedom. She moved to Missouri and married David Reynolds and started a family. After the death of David and her two daughters, Mary Ann and two sons made the trip to Oregon. Mary Ann and Albert married in 1866 two years after her arrival in Oregon, and settled into life in Salem, the city they would call their home until their deaths in 1907, just a few days apart.

Mary Ann and Albert didn't have any children together, but they did take in brothers James Albert and George David Drake after their mother fell ill and died. Mary Ann's son George Reynolds/Randalls survived his mother nearly 20 years.

# Albert & Mary Ann Bayless



## Other Locations

Other places in Salem with Bayless family connections outside downtown Salem

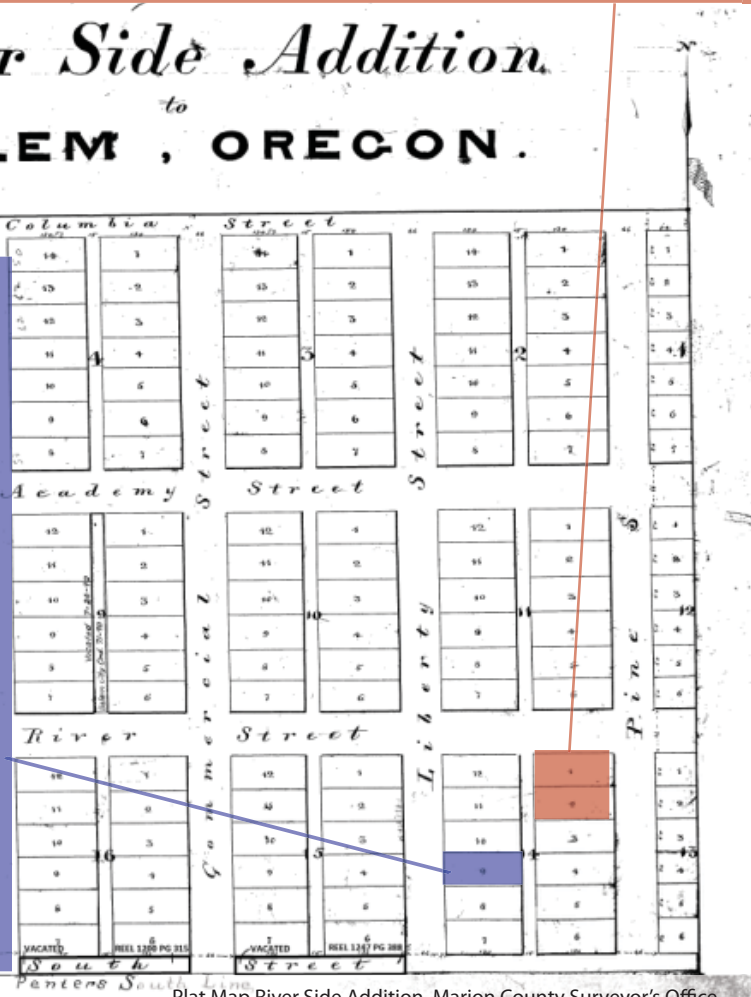


**Bayless Family Plot, Pioneer Cemetery**  
Commercial and Hoyt Streets  
Mary Ann and Albert Bayless are buried in lot 369 alongside their daughter-in-law Maggie Adeline Randles and several members of the Drake family. A new headstone marks the spot, but the names are also visible in the cement curb 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.

**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.

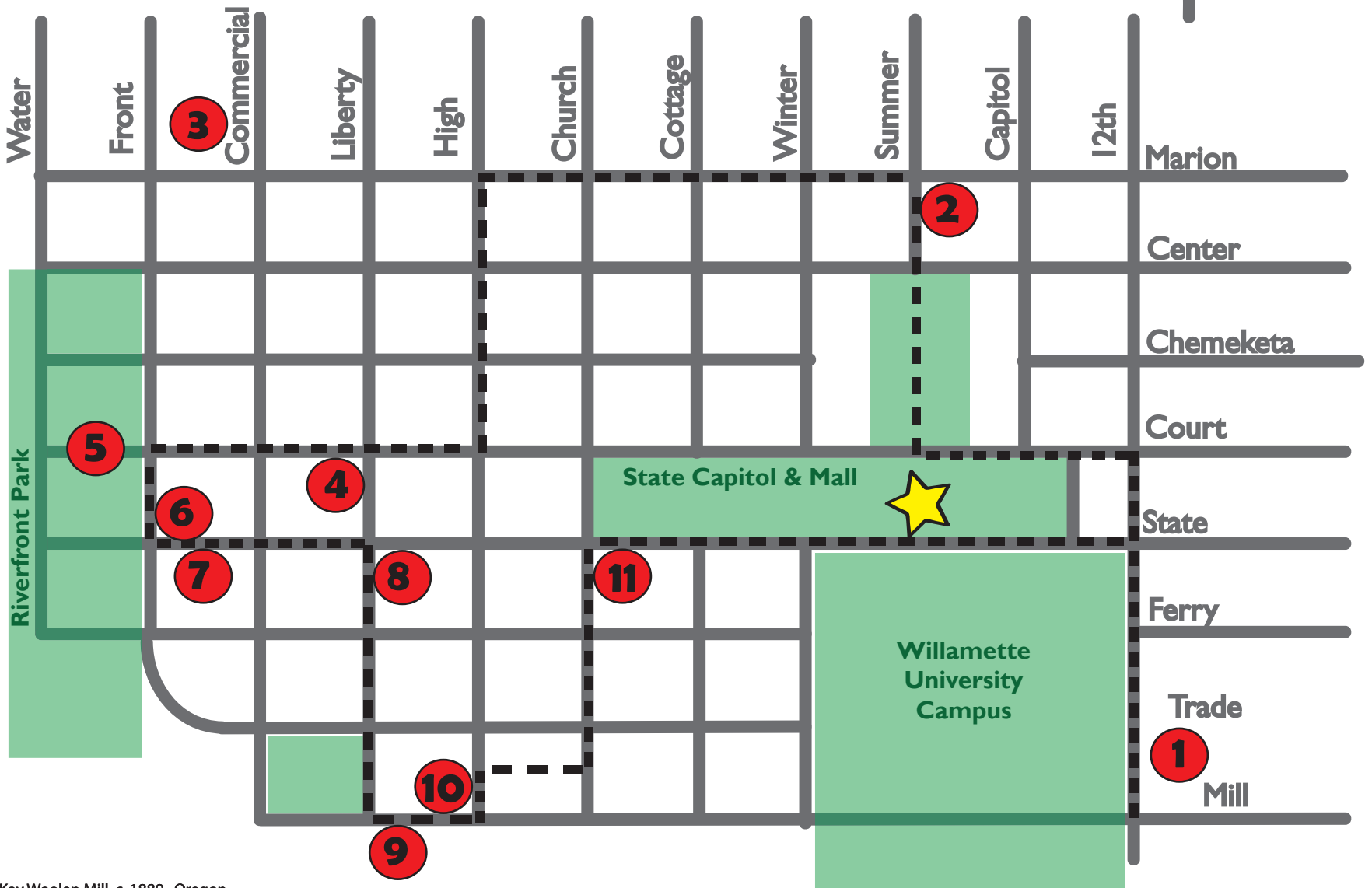
*Note this is a private residence. Please respect the privacy of the current residents*



Plat Map River Side Addition, Marion County Surveyor's Office  
\*Note: Pine Street on this map is now called 4th Street.



# Bayless Family Places In Downtown Salem



Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, c. 1889. Oregon Historical Society Collections ba015883

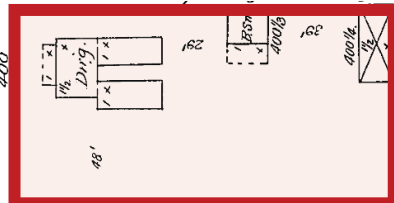


**1**

**Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, 1889**  
Albert Bayless is 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.

**2 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.



1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map,



**3**

**Marion Square Park, 1875**  
Albert Bayless was listed in 1875 as a contributor to the Marion Square Improvement Fund to care for the city's oldest park.

Photo: Marion Square Park c. 1913. WHC Collections 89.13.5.1

**4 Reed Opera House, 1872**

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.



Reed Opera House. Willamette Heritage Center, 1999.013.0200

**5 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.

**6 Albert Bayless Blacksmith Shop, 1871-c.1889**

Located on the NE corner of State and Front Streets, just east of the corner. Building no longer stands.

1880 Salem City Directory



**7 Tiger Fire Engine Co. Headquarters, 1877**



**7**

**8**

**Fire Station, 1865**

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.

Pioneer Firemen of 1865 at 1913 Cherry Fair Newspaper articles place George Reynolds at this celebration and it could be him on far right of image. WHC 1985.072.001

**9 Bayless Family Home, 1874**

According to the 1874 Salem City Directory, Albert lived at the "Southeast corner of Mill and Liberty Streets" in Salem.

**10 Wedding Venue, 1866**

Mary Ann Reynolds and Albert Bayless were married on October 28, 1866 at the home of Dan Jones. The 1867 Salem City Directory lists Dan Jones as residing on the Northwest corner of High and Mill Streets. The wedding was witnessed by Elizabeth and William Johnson and preformed by Rev. Obed Dickinson. Obed Dickinson was an outspoken critic of racist policies in Salem, actions that would force him to resign from his pastorate of the Congregational church about a year after he married Albert and Mary Ann.

**11 First Methodist Church**

Mary Ann and Albert Bayless were admitted to full membership at this church in 1870. Albert Bayless is credited as helping finish the fundraising for the building you see today. Ben Kumler remembered: "At an official board meeting the brethren were voicing their discouragement by saying...they thought it impossible to finish the building. Finally Brother Bayless arose from his obscure corner to tell of his debts. He related that his rent was paid; his iron, steel and horseshoes were all paid for; but still he was in debt. Then he, dramatically, stated that as the building was not finished, with every brick in its proper place, he was in debt; in debt to the Lord! His speech so fired the meeting with enthusiasm that those present began at once to subscribe."