

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #392 - Side B

Subject: Ivan Hughet

Date: July 26, 1994

Place: Eugene, Oregon

Interviewer: Edward Gray

IVAN HUGHET: ... Okay, here is what I started out to tell you and got sidetracked. When Milton died in 1863, his wife remarried shortly after that, and she married Joseph Crank.

EDWARD GRAY: Crank?

IVAN: C R A N K.

EDWARD: This is Sarah?

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Reuben's and Isaac's mom.

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay.

IVAN: This was on the 14th of October in 1863.

EDWARD: Now what happened to Mr. Crank? (Laughter)

IVAN: I don't know. As far as I know they packed up and went to California, Humbolt County, I think. And the kids grew up down there, but I don't know where ---

EDWARD: Reuben and Isaac grew up in California basically.

IVAN: Humbolt County. Because they were --- okay 1863, they would have been, Isaac was 6 and Reuben was 3 1/2.

EDWARD: He was about 3 1/2, yeah.

IVAN: When there mother remarried and moved to California. Now I have no idea what

became of Joseph Crank and where Mr. Marshall came into the picture, or whether there were any in the interim.

EDWARD: What a name, huh? Mr. Crank.

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Sounds like a teacher.

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: So we don't know what happened to Mr. Crank. Now do we know when Sarah --- Sarah McMillan Hughet Crank Marshall married Mr. Marshall.

IVAN: No.

EDWARD: We don't know.

IVAN: I don't know.

EDWARD: We don't even know what Marshall she married, I don't think.

IVAN: I don't know, huh uh.

EDWARD: Mrs. Marshall. Okay. She married in 1870, she married D. N. Marshall.

IVAN: Well let me round up a pen and jot that down.

EDWARD: (Laughter) Oh god. Mr. R. T., Mr. Reuben Thurston Hughet, being clerk of the court, and it was a mark of respect with ... and fully appreciated. He was the county clerk in Harney County in 1913, 1914. Okay.

IVAN: Okay, she married Marshall ---

EDWARD: Married D. --- let me look one more time, Ivan, D. N. Marshall.

IVAN: In 1870?

EDWARD: 1870.

IVAN: Is there a month and date?

EDWARD: No. Mr. Marshall died some years later. Mrs. Marshall came to Harney County in 1890. Well let's see if we can verify that with what Isaac says. Now Isaac and

Reuben came to Harney County in 1884, so that's why Sarah ended up there, I guess. Who in the world was D. N. Marshall? I have no idea.

IVAN: Some Californian, apparently.

EDWARD: But do you know how many Marshall's there are? My god almighty. I forgot how many settled on the south shore of Malheur Lake. Now did Sarah --- oh boy, can I do this right? Did Sarah McMillan Hughet Crank Marshall die in 1914, by your records?

IVAN: I don't think I have anything that tells when she died.

EDWARD: Okay, we need that, Ivan. She died October 6th, 1914. My god, her daughter was married to Charles Comegys.

IVAN: What was her daughter's name?

EDWARD: Geeze.

IVAN: I just found this out about a year ago. On this 1860 census they list a daughter named Henrietta that I had never heard of. And then about a year ago a cousin in Aloha told me that my grandfather and Uncle Reuben had a sister that was married to a Comegys.

EDWARD: Uh huh.

IVAN: Now I don't know if it is the same sister that was listed on the census, or if this is a half sister that was a later child of Sarah's, or what.

EDWARD: Comegys. Charles' first wife was --- that's not going to help much. I interviewed Lafe Comegys, he's 90. Boy this stuff, this relative stuff just drives me crazy. Because they're all, damn, they're all related over there. Not like we are around here anymore.

IVAN: My dad never talked about his relatives. So a lot of this stuff I never knew when I was growing up. I've been kind of digging and trying to find things out.

EDWARD: Now who was your dad?

IVAN: Leonard.

EDWARD: And Leonard's dad was?

IVAN: Isaac.

EDWARD: The Isaac over in Harney County?

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Now Isaac died pretty young, 1926 I thought I said.

IVAN: Well he died in '26, but he wasn't that young, was he?

EDWARD: Well 1850--- well no I guess he wasn't, no.

IVAN: I don't know how old he was when he married. But Lily Ford, whom he married, was 35 when he married her. And I presume he was some years older.

EDWARD: Now here is the whole Isaac thing. I'll just send, I'll make a copy and send it to you. In fact I'll do all this --- if I can get my brain together tonight. Been watching too much newspaper reels, my eyes are --- hundreds and hundreds of pages. Comegys, Comegys, here is a Comegys --- I'll worry about that later. Henrietta, but Henrietta doesn't ring a bell. See the Comegys, the Comegys are in this book too.

IVAN: Oh.

EDWARD: They're all around there, Wagontire. Now do you have, do you have a death date for Reuben Thurston Hughet?

IVAN: Probably not.

EDWARD: I have no idea where he died.

IVAN: Well he died in Burns, and he is buried in Burns.

EDWARD: He's buried in Burns?

IVAN: He is buried right along side of Sarah Marshall.

EDWARD: I should be able to find it, no problem. Mother, both buried --- buried in Burns. Now Patty --- oh there it is. Patty said that she thought he had died in Albany. Well ---

IVAN: Well I don't know.

EDWARD: I don't have any idea. I can't find him in the death records. So that means ---

IVAN: Well I can tell you who to ...

EDWARD: Reuben T. Hughet.

IVAN: --- that might know, and it is Doris Yriarte's sister, who is a few years older than Doris. And she remembers going to Uncle Reuben's house while he was still living.

EDWARD: In Burns?

IVAN: In Burns.

EDWARD: Okay. I got, here is Doris right there. Doris's sister knows where --- Now do you know anything about this judge stuff, Ivan?

IVAN: Well I had heard that Isaac, or that Reuben was the County Judge in Harney County at one time. Now you just said something about him, and something you have there of being the county clerk.

EDWARD: Now he was the county clerk ---

IVAN: Now I don't know if he went from county clerk to, and was elected to county judge or what.

EDWARD: Yeah they call him Judge, Judge Hughet. They called ---

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Like they'd say, well Captain Hughet, because you were a captain at one time, you know, or something like that.

IVAN: Well county judge at that time was like, was, before they came up with this idea of county commissioners, and there was generally just one person, and he was the county judge. Well basically he was the executive officer of the county.

EDWARD: What we need now.

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Do you know anybody in the Hughet family, Ivan, that has, besides Patty, who I just talked on the phone, that would have any personal diaries or anything by Isaac or Reuben Hughet?

IVAN: Patty --- well Roger's father was George Hughet, and he was the city recorder in Burns for many years.

EDWARD: Uh huh. No wonder he kept ...

IVAN: And he had a tendency to keep records.

EDWARD: Yeah.

IVAN: So he was the most likely source of any records. But Uncle Lewis was kind of that way too. And Doris is one of his daughters, and this other sister I was telling you about is Beth Sales and she lives in Albany.

EDWARD: Well Doris is looking for anything she can find, because she is really interested in this too.

IVAN: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Trial --- let me ---

IVAN: She'll probably contact Beth then, and anything Beth has you'll get through Doris.

EDWARD: Yeah. This is the trial transcripts, they'll tell you what old Reuben said. Now this isn't the original. Somebody has kind of, seen the original, and/or didn't copy it down word for word, but took the gist of what they said.

IVAN: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Because I've seen many, many trial transcripts and there is no way this is a trial transcript. Reuben, "Was a member of last grand jury. Identifies pistol as pistol as evidence before grand jury. Saw pistol open in grand jury room, no empty shell. One cartridge in chamber, which would explode by cocking pistol and pulling trigger if pistol works okay." That's on May 26th. Trial ended May 28th, the State versus Ed Oliver for

the death of Pete French. He also states --- where are you Reuben, I haven't taken this out of here, it should be in here yet. "I know where Sagebrush Field, I was opposite side of river from Sagebrush Field during the day of 26th, December 1897, which is the day Pete French was killed about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, about two and a half miles from the gate at Wright house." That's a very important statement right there, to me. "Heard cattle bawling that day, the cattle that were being driven in south end of Sagebrush Field." That's also very important. "Cattle about five miles away from me when I heard them bawling." Now that's approximately the distance from his house down there on the Blitzen River, of course by the Blitzen River, to where Pete French was killed, about five or ten miles. "Think band of mixed cattle would make more noise when checked up, and when moving along." In other words what he is saying, Oliver thought that he had some cows in there with his herd of Pete French, and that's why he went down there. I think Reuben says --- now he was not a judge at this time, he was just an ordinary man. This is 1897. He would have been 36, 37 years old. Reuben, "Generally understands settlers could come in field and get cattle when rounding up, or working cattle. Since lawsuit between Frenchglen Company, and settled this, Mr. French has forbidden any-one going through field or trespassing on the Frenchglen Company's lands." Now that --- all this came about in 1897, the pressure was just too much for a few of them.

IVAN: Right.

EDWARD: A few of them did in another few too. Have you ever heard the name Dr. Marsden?

IVAN: Yeah. I don't remember in what connection.

EDWARD: What connection. Have you ever heard the name, through your family --- now your father is George?

IVAN: Leonard.

EDWARD: Leonard. Leonard is the son of George?

IVAN: No.

EDWARD: No.

IVAN: They are both sons of Isaac.

EDWARD: They're both sons of Isaac. So Isaac was your grandfather. You never saw him though, did you?

IVAN: No, he died before I was born.

EDWARD: Did they ever, did Leonard ever talk about the death of Pete French?

IVAN: Never. My dad hardly talked at all.

EDWARD: Oh, really? Boy I bet you wanted ... People are running all over the place. Oh, ... Let's see. I wonder, let's see what side of the fence old Reuben was on. Who did he testify for? He didn't testify for --- yes he did, he testified for Pete French's side.

IVAN: That's surprising.

EDWARD: On May 26th, 1898, for the plaintiff. Did he --- talked for Ed Oliver the defendant, no. Yeah. Pete French's side. I just now thought of that. That kind of amazes me too.

IVAN: Well that probably just ... or the prosecutor or whoever it was called him and asked him what he knew.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, just used him for that brief moment. Huh. Is there anything that the Hughet family, do you recall anything about Ed Oliver? Did they ever mention that name?

IVAN: No.

EDWARD: But see Isaac probably wasn't there. I think Isaac had moved over to the Warm Springs by then, over in that part of the country. And Reuben, I would guess, sold his --- it's easy to find out, it just takes time, its not that important. I would guess probably



sold that 160 acres, probably sold it to French and then moved up to Sarah after she died, up by Sod House, 1914. He says he was at the south side of Malheur Lake until 1921. And I think they sold it out to Hills.

IVAN: Could be, because from the looks of the map that's about the right place.

EDWARD: Yeah. I think that's what happened.

IVAN: I think he moved into Burns after that.

EDWARD: Right. Because in 1913-14 he was the county clerk, and he just went down there occasionally, and just kind of held onto it, the Sarah Marshall place.

IVAN: Do you know where the Silver Spur Motel is in Burns?

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

IVAN: Well in kind of behind that, and within a block or two, there is a --- scattered around Burns there is a few stone houses.

EDWARD: Yeah, oh yeah, noticed that.

IVAN: There is one of them back off behind there, and that's where he lived.

EDWARD: In that, in one of those little stone jobs?

IVAN: And across from the Pine Room ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

IVAN: --- there is another stone house, and that was the Hughet ranch house that they owned in town.

EDWARD: Is that that real big, big, big huge white house?

IVAN: No, it is native stone, gray stone.

EDWARD: Okay, I'll look at that, because I'll be there in two weeks.

IVAN: And Aunt Esther lived there until, well she died not too many years ago at the age of 97, and she lived by herself in that house after Grandma Hughet died, until just a couple years before she died.

EDWARD: Grandma Hughet?

IVAN: Lily Ford, Isaac's wife.

EDWARD: Now you said Hughet. Is that spelled H U G H E T ?

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, okay. Because in the trial transcripts they spelled it Hewitt, H E W I T T. Then they changed it to ---

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- where it is supposed to be, see.

IVAN: Yeah, well that's common. Because if you hear the name Hughet you automatically spell it that way.

EDWARD: Yeah, right. And that's what they did in there; I just realized that this morning.

IVAN: I ran into that trouble in the Linn County records, trying to trace down the people up in that ---

EDWARD: Right.

IVAN: See after Sarah remarried and left there, I don't know if the family ever had anything, any further contact with old Robert up there.

EDWARD: Robert didn't die until ... something.

IVAN: 1887, or something like that. Yeah, he was 81, I think. And his wife died just a year after he did. They're both buried up there in Scio.

EDWARD: Who in the world is D. N. Marshall?

IVAN: Have no idea.

EDWARD: I bet there is a bizillion Marshall's. There must be ---

IVAN: Where were they married, does it say that? I was sensing that it was in California.

EDWARD: Yeah I, sounds like it is California. Well I'll just, what I'll do, I'll photo copy this and throw this in the mail, because I'm leaving Thursday and go up to the ranch, Ivan. I'll

just photo copy what I think will help you. And let's hope now --- when I ask about George Hughet, Patty said, and this is unbelievable, there is about seven photograph albums, most of the photos are very old. I'm just hoping --- she knows there is a picture of Reuben Hughet, she knows that.

IVAN: I don't know if I've ever seen a picture of him.

EDWARD: Yeah, she knows that. She said, and I had to ask her twice, because this doesn't ... very often. She said most of the pictures were marked with names and locations. I had to ask two times, "Are you sure about that?" Because I guess this George, right ---

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- was a stickler on ---

IVAN: He and his wife, some years ago, I don't remember when, I think they were driving about a '53 Nash at the time, took off and drove through every state in the union. And he kept a detailed record of that whole trip.

EDWARD: That's what I was wondering ...

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: I think, it sounds to me they just loved that country, so it was a --- Of course all of those homesteads are lost anyway, the government kicked them out.

IVAN: Well, yeah. It is my understanding how things worked over there, is after Pete French died, and I don't know how many years it was before the government took that all over for refuge.

EDWARD: '34, '35.

IVAN: Harney County just kind of sat there and did nothing, because the government owned all the water, and wouldn't let anybody use it. Until electric power went in over there and people started drilling wells, and then they started doing something with it.

EDWARD: The United States sued the State of Oregon --- the United States government sued the State of Oregon for rights to all of that land. It was a zoo.

IVAN: The water rights.

EDWARD: Uh huh. So they could control that for this ... ranch, which is a joke. I mean they don't run cattle on it anymore.

IVAN: Oh.

EDWARD: It just sits there ...

IVAN: Well I used to hay for Uncle Lewis a couple of summers, and he hayed refuge land. And they were always bitching about him, had him about getting the mower over a little too far and cutting down a few tules.

EDWARD: Oh ---

IVAN: And then Doris' son Charlie was the, I don't know if it is the right title, but he was the water master at the refuge for several years. He's, now old Charlie is quite a bit younger than I am, he must be 42 or 43. He's in John Day working for the Forest Service there. Last time I ran into him I told him that our great-great grandfather was supposedly buried in Canyon City, and asked him if he could go up there and try to locate a grave marker.

EDWARD: Is that Robert?

IVAN: No, that's William.

EDWARD: William.

IVAN: Milton.

EDWARD: Milton.

IVAN: See that's something I'm curious about. They all apparently came across the plains together, and the old man took a donation land claim. Now I don't know what the laws were then, maybe he was considered the head of household or something, and they

were only allowed one claim.

EDWARD: If you're over 21. They changed it from 640 acres ... a miles square, because the influx of immigrants were just --- it is like we are now, those goddamn Californians are killing us. They're killing us over there too. Boy, I'll tell you ---

IVAN: Yeah, any place in Oregon ...

EDWARD: Oh, they are just ruining --- But anyway, they changed the law, the state did, in 1854, somewhere in there, where you could only have 320.

IVAN: I don't know how many acres were in their claim.

EDWARD: Then in 1862 they cut it down to 160 acres.

IVAN: But I'm curious as to why Milton didn't take out a claim on his own. I'm suspecting that he was more interested in gold than land. Because I think he was killed in Canyon City --- at the time he was killed over there is when they were having that big gold rush over there. And I think he was killed in some sort of a mining accident.

EDWARD: Grant County News ... I don't know how good of a cemetery they have over in Canyon City.

IVAN: Well it's a Odd Fellow's Cemetery, and one of their main functions is to bury their members.

EDWARD: ...

IVAN: But I never have gone there to --- I found Reuben and, or Robert and Margaret's graves. There is no marker on it. I've been tempted to put one on it. But ---

EDWARD: I have been out in some areas, Ivan, out in the boonberry's; it's the most beautiful little graveyards you've ever seen. There is one, Summer Lake, that's --- you wouldn't see it much, to know what you're looking for. But some of them are really well taken care of. Others, like ... you can't even find them. ... Did Hughet's --- where was Bob Hughet in all this?

IVAN: Well he was one of the older brothers.

EDWARD: He used to run around with old Crow, not Johnny.

IVAN: Rankin.

EDWARD: Rankin, yeah.

IVAN: Yeah, they were rodeo buddies. They would round up --- well have you read Rankin's book?

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

IVAN: Well it tells in there.

EDWARD: Yeah. And I think, find out where I am here --- I was thinking there was a Hughet that run with Bill Brown. There may have been. These are the known employees, about 150 that I've found, but ---

IVAN: I don't know ...

EDWARD: Bob Hughet. Was he quite a horseman?

IVAN: Yeah, he was a --- I don't know, he was a party animal, I guess you could say.

EDWARD: Well, that's nothing new. A lot of those boys were, Billy Bedell, criminey.

IVAN: I think old Reuben T. was too, because he never married. But he was always on -- - you know a few years ago the Burns paper used to print, 75, what was going on 75 years ago.

EDWARD: Yeah, 100 years.

IVAN: And he cropped up in that a couple of times, and it was always in some relation to some social function.

EDWARD: Old Reuben Thornton never married?

IVAN: I don't think so, no.

EDWARD: Oh. Isaac?

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you ever see that --- I wonder if Reuben looked like Isaac. We'll find out. Patty, I'm sure ---

IVAN: Yeah, he looks like a Hughet, all right.

EDWARD: This guy just looks like a cowboy, doesn't he? He looks like a cowboy to me, in the wrong gear, but he looks like a cowboy. Well I'll send you this stuff. I'll get it off in the mail --- I've got to go down to Kinko's again anyway. I'll get it off in the mail tomorrow, because I'm leaving Thursday morning. If you come up with anything, will you jot it down, Ivan?

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Anything at all, dealing with Pete French, Ed Oliver, homesteading.

IVAN: Yeah, I don't really know of ---

EDWARD: It's getting --- I'm losing these people like crazy. I talked to a 102-year-old lady in Madras, Oregon, three weeks ago or so, whatever it was. And Johnny Crow is 92. Now his, see John Crow's dad, and Rankin Crow's dad was there the day that Pete French was killed.

IVAN: He was at the site?

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

IVAN: I knew he was the one that rode to Winnemucca to send the telegram.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. That's right, but yeah he was with the cattle. I know all that stuff, I think there was seven or eight men there, buckaroo, cowboys ... And one day, David Crow, their father, sat down with John Crow's wife and said, "Get a pencil and piece of paper and I'll tell you about the death of Pete French." Three years later he died. So that is one very helpful fact in all this mess.

IVAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: But anyway, I'd forgotten. That's good. So we kind of got Sarah straightened

out, I think. Because I had no idea she was married to Mr. Crank. Jesus, one, two, three --- well she was only married three times.

IVAN: That we know of.

EDWARD: That we know of, is right. (Laughter)

IVAN: But I'd still like to find out if this Henrietta is the one that was married to a Comegys, or if there was maybe a half-sister from one of Sarah's later marriages.

EDWARD: Henrietta.

IVAN: See what is confusing is, there was a tendency for the family, apparently, to give people a first name and then never call them that.

EDWARD: Yeah, oh yeah, that did a lot. Come on, where is Marshall. I have Sarah Marshall's --- here we go, here is all the Marshall's. Geeze, a mess of them.

IVAN: Are those born, all born in Arkansas?

EDWARD: Yeah. Sarah Marshall, come on. ... (Looks through papers) That's Sarah's place, I've got a better map, done in 1896.

IVAN: Comegys was an ...

EDWARD: Right, that's Fay. Sod House Springs is right here. This is kind of where the road is today, right through there.

IVAN: Sod House Springs, is that, isn't that the, isn't there a spring at the refuge headquarters?

EDWARD: Right, that's Sod House Spring, yeah, exactly.

IVAN: That's Sod House Spring.

EDWARD: That's Lewis Springer's place. George Marshall, come on, see if I can answer that right here. So many Marshall's, it is unbelievable. Sarah Marshall --- Sarah E. Marshall, ... the year 1885. "I filed on pre-emption claim, and located on the east side of Blitzen River near Rocky Ford. After I made final proof on that ---" I haven't seen that. "I



disposed of it and lived down in the vicinity of Sod House most of the time." This place is known as the Sarah E. Marshall place. That's that place I just showed you, where the Hill brothers now live. Reuben T. Hughet --- Where is her death? God dang it. I've got the article out of the newspaper when Sarah Marshall died. And that would probably say what you want to know, I would guess. (Looking through papers.)

Boy, Comegys, Sidney Comegys --- there is Fay Comegys, he married, I forgot who right now. He was married the day after Pete French was killed, in Burns. Don't tell me I got to go do that again. Well, Ivan, I swear I --- Oh, he got knifed, geeze. Well, it's here somewhere, Sarah's death. I just have to dig it up. I'll probably have to go back over to the U. of O. tomorrow again, anyway. Henrietta, I haven't run across that name. Okay.

IVAN: Uncle George, when he was --- my brother was going over to see him here a couple years ago, and I asked my brother to ask Uncle George a couple of questions, and one of them was whether he knew anything about this Henrietta. And he said that there was a sister that was living in Hawaii, so that is kind of curious, way back in the late 1800's.

EDWARD: Oh, yeah. Yeah, that's unusual. What was this Crank's name, Thomas?

IVAN: Joseph.

EDWARD: Joseph. Well maybe he died too, C R A N K.

IVAN: C R A N K. There should be a record of that marriage in the Linn County records.

EDWARD: Run this out there.

(END OF TAPE)

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