

**1850** – The Deardorffs cross the plains to Oregon.<sup>1</sup>

**September 27, 1850** – The Donation Land Claim Act is passed by the U.S. Congress.

**1851** – Christian and Matilda Deardorff settle on a donation land claim beside Scouters' Mountain and are the first to settle in what would become Happy Valley.<sup>2</sup>



**Christian and Matilda Deardorff**  
*Courtesy: Clackamas County Historical Society*

**October 1851** – John M. Deardorff claims 320 acres next to his parents' claim.<sup>3</sup>

**1852** – Francis and Amanda Talbert and their children travel the Oregon Trail and arrive in Oregon. Francis would receive a Donation Land Claim in present-day Happy Valley. Francis' son, John A. Talbert, would serve in many public positions including in the state legislature. Mount Talbert was likely named after the family.<sup>4</sup>

**1858** – The historic Deardorff Barn is constructed on the property of John M. Deardorff.<sup>5</sup>



**The Deardorff Barn, 1989**

*Photo by Bud Unruh*

**1865** – Harvey Scott, the namesake of Mount Scott, becomes the editor of *The Oregonian*.<sup>6</sup>

**January 6, 1876** – A travelled road going from Harmony to Damascus is established as County Road #96. This road is today's SE Sunnyside Road.<sup>7</sup>



**Sunnyside Road with Mount Scott in background, photo taken from the site of present-day Clackamas Promenade, early 1900s**

*Courtesy: Sunnyside Elementary School*

**1884** – The Sunnyside School is established at the northeast corner of present-day 122nd and Sunnyside Roads.<sup>8</sup>



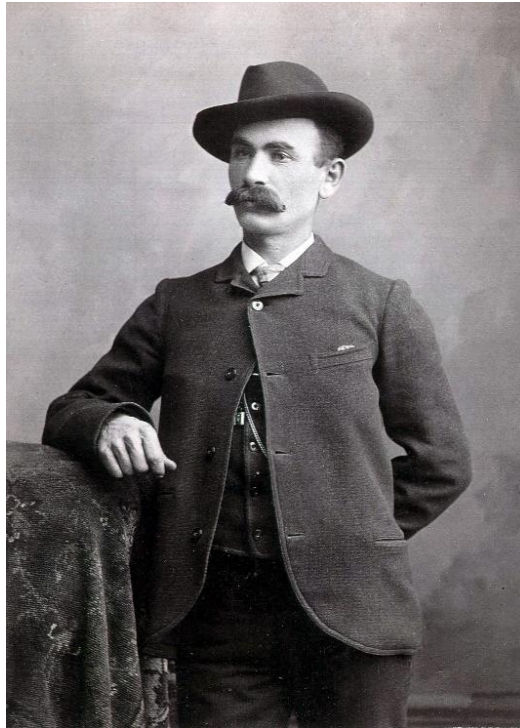
**Sunnyside School, 1927**

*Courtesy: Sunnyside Elementary School*

**December 14, 1884** – Christian Deardorff, patriarch of the first family to settle in Happy Valley, passes away and is buried in the Christilla Pioneer Cemetery.<sup>9</sup>

**December 17, 1888** - Sunnyside Post Office is established with John R. Welch as postmaster.<sup>10</sup>

**1890** – George, Charles F. and John C. Zinser each build homes in Happy Valley and the Zinser family becomes one of the longest residing families in Happy Valley.<sup>11</sup>



**Charles Frederick (Fred) Zinser**

*Courtesy: The Zinser family*

**April 30, 1891** – Matilda Deardorff, the matriarch of the first family to settle in Happy Valley, passes away and is buried in the Christilla Pioneer Cemetery on Scouters' Mountain.<sup>12</sup>

**1892** – A small one-room schoolhouse opens on land donated to the county from John Deardorff's land claim.<sup>13</sup>





**Students at recess at the first Happy Valley school, 1912**

*Courtesy: Clackamas County Historical Society*

**1898** – The area going north to Foster Road is surveyed for a new county road. This would be an important route for Valley residents to reach the markets on Foster. Today, the road begins as 132nd Avenue and becomes Deardorff Road.<sup>14</sup>

**1901** – George Zinser sells his house to Charles Rebstock and moves to California. The home would become known as the Rebstock House and was located on the site of the present-day Happy Valley Policing Station.<sup>15</sup>



**Charles Rebstock**

*Courtesy: The Rebstock family*

**1902** – In a meeting at the school, a new name for the valley is selected to be “Christilla Valley” to honor Christian (Chris) and Matilda (Tilla) Deardorff.<sup>16</sup>

**December 7, 1902** – John M. Deardorff passes away and is buried in the Christilla Pioneer Cemetery on Scouters’ Mountain.<sup>17</sup>



**John M. Deardorff, his wife Rachel and their three sons**

*Courtesy: The Deardorff family*

Created by Mark Hurlburt

*Mark Hurlburt is a lifelong Happy Valley resident and the volunteer librarian in the Wilmer Gardner Research Library at the Museum of the Oregon Territory.*

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