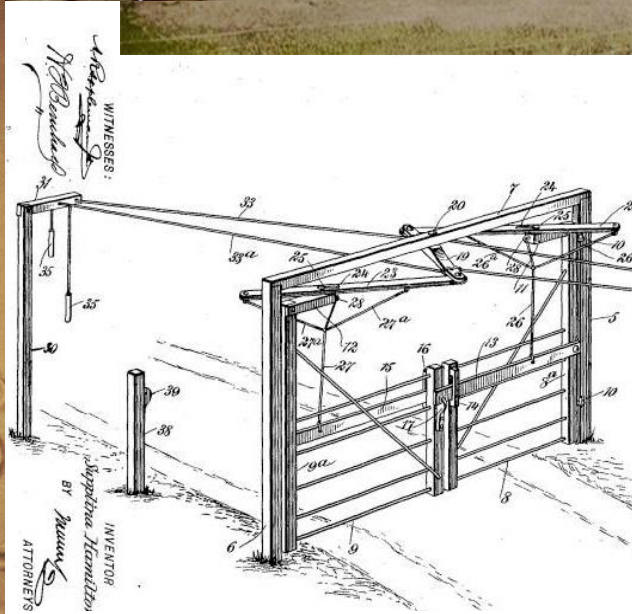
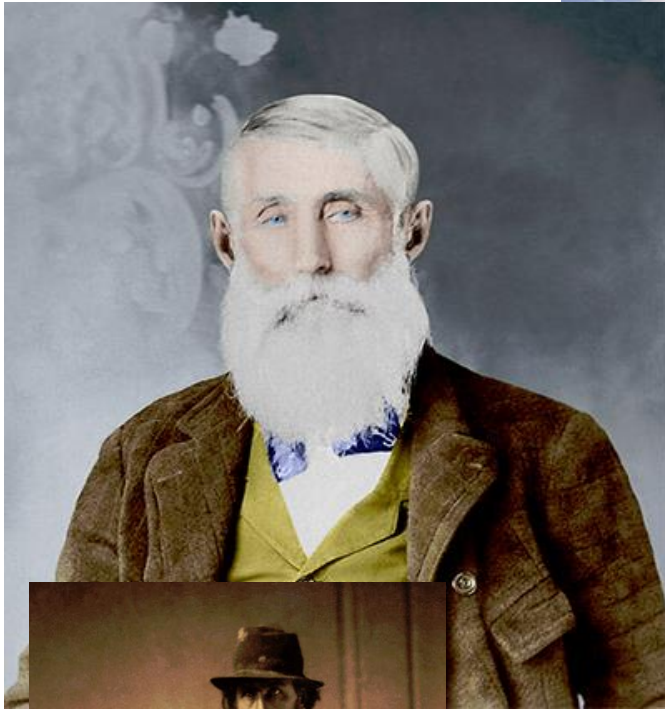


# Chronological outline of the life of Supplina P. Hamilton



## Chronological outline of the life of Supplina P. Hamilton

Version 1.3, last updated 6/4/2016.

### 1832

**April 23:** Supplina P. Hamilton was born to John and Altha (Judd) Hamilton near New Lexington now Arcadia, Morgan County, Illinois. Supplina was the seventh of nine children.

Several records state that Supplina was born in Cass County, Illinois. Both Morgan and Cass County are correct depending on whether you are referencing the county in the time of his birth or the present day. In reviewing the 1835 Illinois state census and studying the land records of the Hamilton's neighbors, it appears that the family was living on land just north of the New Lexington township border in township T17N R10W 3rd PM. The specific area in Morgan County where Supplina was born became part of Cass County in 1837. [1, 3, 60]

Supplina was named after this maternal grandfather, Supplina Judd. We know Supplina Hamilton's middle initial was "P" from the handwritten (and the later attorney drafted court filed version) of the 1869 last will and testament of his younger brother, James M. Hamilton. Some have assumed that Supplina's middle name was 'Pliny' but this is unlikely and without any known primary source documentation. There is documentation in the 1856 Judd family history "Thomas Judd and his Descendants", by Sylvester Judd, that remembers that Supplina Judd's nickname was 'Pliny.' This is likely the source of the confusion about Supplina Hamilton's middle name. [58, 59]

### 1834

**April 10:** Supplina's twin brothers, James M. and William McCord Hamilton are born at home in Morgan County. We do not know James' middle name but William was named for William McCord a pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian minister in the area. William McCord was active in the Shiloh Presbyterian Church three miles outside of what is now Virginia, Illinois. William McCord had died the year before on Aug. 19, 1833 at age 53. [2, 85 p.379]

### 1835

**Summer:** The John Hamilton family in Morgan County is enumerated in the Illinois state census near the southern border of T17N R10W 3rdPM. This is the only John Hamilton family in the census whose members and ages closely fit what we know of the John and Altha Hamilton family. Cass County would not be created from part of Morgan County until 1837. [3, 60]

### 1835 ~ 1840

Supplina is orphaned. The date and cause of his parent's death are unknown. Supplina began living with family and friends, "I was an orphan boy, and my home was anywhere I was treated kindly." Perhaps the best documentary evidence (by omission) that we have for the likely range of their years of death comes from the fact they are listed in the 1835 Illinois state census but are not on the voter rolls of the first election in Cass County, IL in August of 1837. This may imply that they died between the summer of 1835 and that election on Aug. 7, 1837. Family memory puts Supplina as a slightly older child at the time of his parent's death so that would suggest a date closer to 1839. The family was not found together in the 1840 US census. [4] p.28 [85] p. 51-55

## 1843

**Fall:** Supplina was enrolled as a pupil in the classroom of Andrew Emerich. The school was in Township 17 North, Range 10 West, 3PM which includes the town of Virginia, Illinois. [5]

## 1851

**April 3:** Twenty days before his 19th birthday Supplina "left from home in Menard County, Illinois" as a teamster in the Powell wagon train headed for the Willamette Valley, Oregon Territory. The wagon train was led by Rev. John Alkire Powell and contained many of the extended Powell family including John's brothers Noah and Albert and their families. They likely left from the Powell Farm in Sugar Grove Township in what is now, Mason County, Illinois. The Powell brothers and their Alkire relatives were early converts to the Stone-Campbell 'Christian Church' movement in Illinois. [4] p.28 [23] p.25

**April ~ Sept: On the Oregon Trail.** We are very fortunate in that we have detailed accounts of Supplina's journey across the Oregon Trail in 1851. These accounts are from three primary sources and now a number of secondary references. [26]

The **first primary** source is a long letter that Supplina wrote to Dr. James Madison Powell, MD in Spokane, WA on Oct. 18, 1899 from their home on Union Flat Creek in Whitman County, WA. James was the Powell family historian, a descendant of John Alkire Powell. This letter was written at the request of James Powell and detailed Supplina's memories of the trip. We do not have the original of this letter but the text was published by Dr. Powell in 1922 in his book, 'Powell History' and republished by the WPA as a product of their Linn County Oregon pioneer interview series from the 1930's.

Excerpts of the letter were also published in the 2011 book, 'On The Oregon Trail In 1851: Canaries, Buffalo-Chips, and Elephants.' by Albert Edward Belanger. The reference to 'Elephants' in the book title is from a comment made by Supplina that his motivation to head to Oregon was 'to see the elephant', a contemporary idiom for wanting adventure, even in the face of risks. [4] p.27, [23]p.46-52, [24]

The **second primary** source is the journal and account book of the wagon train captain, John Alkire Powell. This document has been scanned in its entirety and is available online. Captain Powell not only recorded a diary of the journey west but once in Oregon he used the same notebook to record business transactions associated with his saw mill and to record some of the marriages he performed. Supplina's work for and business with Mr. Powell are recorded in the book along with a record of his marriage to Jane Sumpter in June of 1858. [25]

The **third primary** source are the interviews conducted with Powell family descendants under the direction of the Works Projects Administration (WPA). The Linn county interviews of the John, Alfred and Noah Powell descendants were completed by Leslie L. Haskins mostly in 1940. This type written document captured invaluable testimony of the trip west with the Powell wagon train in 1851. The document also has wonderful stories of what life was like after they arrived and settled near the Santiam River forks east of what would become Albany and north of what would become Lebanon, Oregon. [23] p.24-53.

**Sept. 3:** The wagon train reached Foster's Ranch 14 miles east of Oregon City, arriving in the Willamette River Valley five months to the day from leaving Illinois. This is the day they would mark as their official arrival in Oregon Country. [4] pg. 32.

Reference site, Philip Foster Farm: <http://philipfosterfarm.com/>

**Sept. 16:** The Powell wagon train reached Santiam Creek in Linn County, Oregon Territory about 7 miles northeast of present day Albany, OR where the members began claiming quarter sections of unsurveyed land under the Donation Land Claim Act. According to later maps, Supplina apparently settled on land close to John A. Powell and next to Joseph Earl. Supplina was not able to file an official land claim under the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 because he was still under the age of 21. [6, 84]

## 1852

United with the Church of Christ in Linn County, Oregon Territory. Supplina was baptized by "Uncle Johnnie Powell", John Alkire Powell. [7, 67]

Supplina must have owned some land as he was assessed and on the tax rolls in Linn County as early as 1852. [78]

## 1854

**Dec 1:** Supplina officially settled on his Donation Land Claim, DLC #2969, of 138.27 acres in Linn County, Oregon Territory. [8, 9, 10]

## 1855

**Oct.17:** Supplina answered the call from Oregon Territorial Governor George Law Curry for volunteers to help put down an Indian rebellion, in what would be called the Yakima Indian War of 1855/56. On that day Supplina enlisted as a private with other Linn County men in Captain Davis Layton's Company H, 1st Regiment of the Oregon Mounted Volunteers. Supplina described himself as "blacksmith" that was "5' 10" tall light blue eyes, brown hair and fair complexion." He enlisted for the duration of the war and brought his own mount, rifle and equipment. Twenty-three year old Supplina was known to the volunteers as 'Doc Hamilton.' [19]

**Winter 1855/56:** The mounted volunteers spent the winter out in the field in the Walla Walla Valley in deep snow and difficult conditions. [22]

**Dec. 7 ~ 10:** Supplina fought in the epic Battle of Walla Walla near the current community of Frenchtown south of present day Walla Walla, WA. It was the longest battle of any Indian war in Washington Territory. It resulted in the death of Chief Peo-Peo-Mox-Mox. [20, 21]

## 1856

**Feb. 16:** Supplina was discharged at Mill Creek Camp, Walla Walla, Washington Territory at the end of the War and returned to Linn County, Oregon.

## 1858

**June 10:** Married Sarah Jane "Jane" Sumpter, daughter of Alexander and Nancy Sumpter. They were married by John Alkire Powell near Scio, Linn County, Oregon Territory. One of the witnesses was Perry Thomas, Supplina's brother-in-law, who had married Nancy Lovisa Sumpter the year before. [11, 12, 16, 19]

## 1859

**April 29:** Duron Hamilton, Supplina and Jane's first born son was born in Linn County, Oregon. [1]

## 1860

**Sept. 4:** Supplina, Jane, one year old Duron and what we assume may be an orphan boy three year old George Cox, were enumerated in the US Census, in the postal district of Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon. Supplina's profession is listed as 'Farmer.' On the previous census page and living close by was Jane's older sister and family Malinda (Sumpter) Compton. [13]

## 1861

**Feb. 1:** Heman P. Hamilton, Supplina and Jane's second child is born, in Linn County, Oregon. [1]

**June:** Supplina begins the move of his young family (Jane, Duron and Heman) to the Umatilla country in northeastern Oregon, back along the westward trail. We don't have testimony from them as to why they decided to leave family, friends and farm in Linn County, but later accounts suggest that they viewed the Umatilla Indian Reservation as a Christian mission field. [19, 17]

Supplina arrived in Umatilla County by horseback in 1861. His family followed from Linn County the following spring having come up the Columbia on a steamboat after being forced to winter in the Dalles before arriving at Umatilla Landing in March 1862. [27]

During the journey Supplina Hamilton helped his friend, Robert Earl from Linn County, move his cattle over to the foot of the Barlow Road. Robert Earl later wrote of this in his memoirs 'Robert Earl Reminiscences.' The text is without punctuation, riddled with spelling errors and uses the colloquialisms of a pioneer. Robert refers to Supplina as "Dock Hamilton." [28]

**Oct. 24:** Supplina's older brother, John P. Hamilton enlists in the Union Army as a private in "I" Company, 3rd Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry.

## 1862

**March:** Jane, Duron and Heman arrive and join Supplina near the Umatilla Agency. [27]

**July 23:** Supplina's younger twin brothers, James M. and William M. Hamilton answer President Lincoln's call and enlist in the Union Army with the 85th Illinois Infantry, Company C, from Mason County, Illinois.

**Nov:** Supplina and Jane purchase land in 'Lower Umatilla' near the Oregon Trail about mile and a half northwest of Echo, Oregon Territory. [29]. Supplina ranched, took in work as a blacksmith and they may have begun the manufacture of brooms. [30, 27, 33 p.13]

## 1863

Supplina begins active ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as an evangelist in the example of the Powell brothers. They were self-supporting 'farmer preachers' who traveled, taught and established congregations. [7, 14, 15, 18]

**April 20:** Three days before Supplina's 31st birthday Jane gives birth to their third child and first girl, Altha R. Hamilton.

**May:** Supplina was appointed along with Thomas McCoy as the county commissioners of Umatilla County, Oregon. They replaced the first elected county commissioners who before taking office had abandoned their posts to head for the gold strike in Northcentral Washington Territory. Supplina was appointed on the 20th and took the oath of office on May 27th. [31,32]

## 1865

**Feb. 20:** Jane Hamilton gave birth to their fourth child and second daughter, Dora Hamilton.

## 1866

**May/June:** Supplina ran for Umatilla County Judge. He ran as a Regular Union Party candidate. He lost that election. [86]

**July 4:** Supplina and Jane sell their ranch in Umatilla County and head north to the Walla Walla Valley. They apparently lived in another part of Umatilla County temporarily before moving north into the Walla Walla Valley that Fall. [27, 29]

**July 26:** Supplina was awarded the land patent on his original donation land claim in Linn County, Oregon Territory. [41]

**Oct:** The family moved to land Supplina purchased from Jack Hastings near Walla Walla in Washington Territory on the little Walla Walla River near Frenchtown. [19, 27]

## 1867

**Feb. 24:** Pirena May Hamilton, Supplina and Jane's fifth child, was born in Walla Walla County, Washington Territory. [1]

**May 17:** Supplina Hamilton nominated by acclamation to run for County Commissioner of Walla Walla County on the Union party ticket. Also on the Union ticket for County Commissioner was the founder of Waitsburg, S. M. Wait and A. H. Reynolds. [34, 35, 36]

**May 31:** Supplina a "highly respectable citizen" of Frenchtown, was hit with a bit of mud-slinging politics and had to refute false claims of his support for the 'sore-heads' of the Law and Order party. [37]

**June:** Supplina and Granville Goldstein work to organize the Disciples of Christ in the area of Waitsburg, WT. [72] p. 155

**June 14:** Supplina loses the commissioner race though the Union Ticket is sustained by victories for S.M. Wait and A. H. Reynolds. The Union Party that Supplina was associated with was formed in November of 1862 with the strong support of the Oregon and Washington newspapers. It was a patriotic expression of support for the Union cause with perhaps an aim to help ferret out politicians with

Confederate sympathies. The Union party initially was promoted to combine Republicans, Douglas Democrats (Democrats that voted for Stephen Douglas in the 1860 election but then broke with the Southern Democratic party to strongly support the Union), Whigs and others. [38]

**Sept. 8:** Supplina was given a letter of certification that he was an ordained evangelist from the elders of the Christian Church in the Walla Walla River, Ransom Wells and William H. Robbins. This gave Supplina church authority to "Preach the Gospel, Baptize Believers and Solemnize Matrimony." [7]

**Fall:** Supplina and Jane decide to leave Frenchtown and they returned to Linn County residing presumably on their donation land claim property where they remain for the next two years. [19, 27]

## 1869

Supplina and Jane move a short distance north to property near Aumsville, Marion County, Oregon Territory. [19]

## 1870

**July 5:** Frank Hamilton, Supplina and Jane's sixth child and third boy is born in Marion County, Oregon Territory. [1]

**Aug 18:** Supplina and Jane are enumerated in the 1870 U.S. Census living in Lincoln precinct, Aumsville, Marion County, Oregon Territory. This general location was just north of and not far from their old donation land claim in Linn County. Jane's family and Supplina's old friends would have been close by. Supplina's occupation is listed as 'Blacksmith' and the value of his personal estate is given at \$500. [39]

## 1872

**Nov 7:** Judd Hamilton, Supplina and Jane's seventh child and fourth boy is born in Marion County, Oregon Territory. [1]

## 1873

Supplina and Jane decided to move with their children back to eastern Washington Territory by way of central and eastern Oregon, visiting family and friends along the way.

From Duron Hamilton's later account of the trip, "Our outfit consisted of one 2-horse team and one 4-horse team. My brother Haman [Heman], 12 years old, and I, 14 years old, rode horseback and drove the cattle and horses. Fred Fowler drove one of the teams. His sister, Mrs. Griffith, lived on the Pataha Flat at that time. We crossed the mountains via the Soda Springs route, passed Prineville and stopped on the Crooked River where mother's folks [Alexander and Nancy Sumpter] lived, and rested our teams for a week, as the grass was fine there. Then we came on past Pendleton, Walla Walla, Dayton to Whetstone Hollow where my mother's sister, Mrs. Perry Thomas lived. My father rode horseback to Pataha Flat from there to visit old-time friends, Jake Hastings and William Greer. In a few days he returned and took the family which consisted at that time of four boys and three girls to Pataha Flat, locating on land later owned by Albert Long [unintelligible type]. [two or three words of unintelligible type] in 1873." [27]

## 1874

**June 21 - 23:** Supplina coordinates and attends the 1st annual meeting of the Disciples of Christ of northeastern Oregon and eastern Washington Territories, held near Waitsburg, WT. It is a three day event beginning on Sunday, June 21st. The meetings were attended by representatives of congregations from Umatilla County, Oregon; Union County, Oregon; Walla Walla County, WT; and Whitman County, WT.

During the meetings Supplina Hamilton, 'Bro. Hamelton' was pledged support for another year of traveling evangelism. His field of evangelistic labor was defined as, "the country lying between Weston, Umatilla Co., Oregon, and Pataha Prairie, Walla Walla County, W. T." [71]

## 1875

In 1875 Supplina and Jane finished proving up their preemption homestead claim on Pataha Flat south of present day Pomeroy, WA and filed for a patent award on their claim. They also moved to Waitsburg, WA where Supplina rented a blacksmith shop and went into business practicing his trade. [27]

**July 15:** Effie Hamilton, Supplina and Jane's eighth child and fourth daughter was born near Waitsburg, WT in Walla Walla County, "during the first Christian camp meeting held in a cottonwood grove on the Coppia [Coppei] Creek, it was an annual event for many, many years; my father was a minister of that faith, a pioneer, a black smith of no small repute in the early days in Washington where he lived for many years." [18]

**Fall:** Supplina and Jane move onto a rented farm near Dixie, WA. Supplina filed a homestead claim on a vacant 80 acres and timber culture claims on three 40 acre plots of land. [27]

**Dec. 30:** Supplina and Jane's patent award for the land they had proved up on Pataha Flat was officially granted. To have it awarded in two years they likely paid the U.S. government \$1.25 an acre for the 165.67 total acres of the land. [40]

## 1876

Supplina built a blacksmith shop on his homestead near Dixie and took in work from the community. [27]

Supplina organized the Disciples of Christ congregation in the community of Spring Valley near Waitsburg. [72] p.155 [73]

## 1877

Supplina was preaching once a month respectively in Disciples of Christ churches in Upper Touchet and Dixie, WT. [74]

## 1880

**March 30:** Ida Hamilton, the ninth and last child of Supplina and Jane Hamilton was born in Walla Walla County likely at home near Dixie, WT. [1]



**June 19:** Supplina, Jane and family are enumerated in the 1880 U.S. Census. They were living in Walla Walla County, Washington Territory. Supplina's occupation is listed as "Preacher." Supplina and Jane are listed with their nine children including Duron's wife Laura and their two young children, Olive and Charles. [69]

### **1883**

Supplina helps to organize the consolidation of the congregations of Waitsburg, Bundy Hollow and Spring Valley, forming a congregation of 60 souls. Their meeting place was a school house in Waitsburg. [73]

### **1885**

Supplina and Jane continue to live near Dixie, WT. Supplina continues to travel and evangelize, preaching occasionally in Dayton for the Disciples of Christ meeting in a rented hall on main street. [72] p.142

Supplina and Jane were enumerated that summer in the Washington Territorial census. Their children at home were; Pirena, Frank, Judd, Effie and Ida. [77]

### **1887**

**June 11:** Supplina Hamilton attended the Pioneer and Indian War Veterans meeting in Walla Walla, WT; "The pioneers of Eastern Washington met at the court house yesterday afternoon with a membership of seventy six... after the Pioneers meeting the Indian War Veterans organized a camp and adopted a constitution and by-laws. Following is the present membership... S Hamilton, private, Co H Oregon Vols., 1855." [42]

### **1888**

Supplina and Jane Hamilton traded their land near Dixie for land on Union Flat Creek in Whitman County, WT, south of Endicott, to which they moved their family and farming operations. The long Union Flat Creek Valley had been the first area settled by white farmers in Whitman County. It was initially settled by Union Army Civil War Veterans; hence the name 'Union Flat.' A few miles away closer to Colfax there is an area and creek known as 'Rebel Flat' for the same reason. The first white settler in Whitman County, George Pangburn, lived right 'next door' to Supplina and Jane on the land immediately to the West of them on the creek bottom. [22, 81]

### **1889**

**June 27:** Methodists hold a camp meeting near the Supplina and Jane Hamilton Place; "The Methodists, of the Pullman circuit will hold a camp meeting on Union Flat, below the Hamilton place, commencing June 27th and continuing over two Sabbaths." [43].

The Hamilton place was a great place for a camp meeting. There were some pine trees and plenty of flat protected bottom land to camp and pitch tents with a good source of water for people and animals. The rolling hills rising to the southern edge of their land provided a natural amphitheater for listeners to hear those speaking. Later the Hamilton School, District #111, would be built at this location. [80]

**Nov. 11:** Washington Territory is admitted as the 42nd State in the United States of America.

## 1891

**May 17:** Supplina writes a letter to his son Frank in Waitsburg from the home place on Union Flat south of Endicott in Whitman County. Supplina is busy breaking virgin sod as is his son Heman (spelled Heaman in the letter). Their winter wheat crop from the prior year is so far a failure. It has been a dry spring. Supplina preached in the church in Endicott that day. [75]

**June 18 – 28:** Camp meeting at Cozier's (perhaps John C. Cozier) on Pine Creek (near Farmington, WA) beginning on June 18th and lasting over two Sundays. Supplina planned on attending. [75]

## 1897

**June 12:** The United Brethren hold a camp meeting near the Supplina and Jane Hamilton place; "The United Brethren will hold a camp meeting on Union Flat, near the Hamilton place, commencing June 22nd and continuing till after the Fourth of July." [44]

## 1898

**Nov. 12:** Supplina Hamilton, Populist Party candidate for Washington State Representative from the 7th District loses; Headline: "Redeemed from Populism – The Pops Knocked out in County and State. Everything Republican." [45, 46]

Supplina was active in Populist Party politics in this era. The Populists were a 3rd party, largely a rural farmer's party. In the 1896 presidential campaign the Democratic Party candidate, William Jennings Bryan, took up many of their causes nationally and the Populist Party 'fused' with the Democrats.

In the November 1898 election, Supplina Hamilton ran for a seat as a Washington State Representative from the 7th Legislative District in Eastern Washington under the Populist Party banner. The Populist candidates were defeated by the Republican Party candidates in Whitman County and across Washington State.

By 1900 the fusion had fizzled and the Populists would never really again contend for national influence. The Hamilton family clearly thought a lot of William Jennings Bryan as Duron and Laura Hamilton named one of their sons, born in July of 1897, William Jennings Bryan Hamilton! [82]

**Dec. 22:** Supplina Hamilton conducts the funeral service for Mr. W. W. Hodges in Ewartsville, Whitman County. Over his years of ministry Supplina officiated at hundreds of weddings and funerals. His daughter Effie wrote of her Dad that he, "preached for 30 years never received a dollar for his services. He married about 300 couples, preached as many funerals. Always believing what Jesus said to his disciples when he sent them out and said freely ye have received freely given. Kept that attitude all through life." [47, 18]

## 1899

**Dec. 9:** Supplina was elected chairman of the Populist Party in Whitman County in a meeting in Colfax, WA. At this time the party was near its end nationally and was not the significant force in the 1900 election as it had been in 1896. [48]

## 1900

**Feb. 10:** Rev. S. Hamilton remembered ministering in Dusty, WA this Saturday on his visiting circuit around the area. [49]

**April 2:** Supplina conducts the funeral service for Edwin Huntley. [50]

**May 17:** Supplina Hamilton and the contentious Populist Party Whitman County Convention. The Populists in the county were split on whether to join with the Democrats in the election of 1900 to advance their agenda. Supplina Hamilton strongly argued for 'fusion' with the Democrats but ultimately the motion failed. [51, 52]

From the report in the Seattle Times: "*Fusion of Forced Defeated. Special Dispatch, Colfax, Wash.*, The Populist convention reconvened Thursday at 1 o'clock ... The committee on platform and resolutions, brought in a voluminous report endorsing the national platform of 1896 and embodying the Sioux City platform and recommending direct legislation; denouncing the gold standard and endorsing the nomination of [William Jennings] Bryan and Towne... W. H. Larkin of Colfax moved that the whole report with its recommendations be substituted by one plank for direct legislation. Then the fun began. Fusion was "cussed" and discussed in all its phases, one delegate favoring Fusion, S. Hamilton, who was defeated two years ago for the Legislature, declaring that the Populists had never elected any one without the help of the Democrats." [53]

The pro-fusionist leaders of the Populist party were further criticized in an editorial June 1, 1900 in the Colfax Gazette; "CROPS AND POLITICS (editorial of the Colfax Gazette)... Cass Crow, H. B. Treff, R. H. Paret, Rev. S. Hamilton and half a dozen others do not carry the populist or any other party with them every time they swing like a weather vane to each passing political breeze." [54]

Supplina Hamilton was no stranger to local political leadership or public service. Over the years Supplina had been a volunteer soldier in the 1st Regiment of Oregon Mounted Volunteers during the Yakima Indian War of 1855/56; was the second county commissioner of Umatilla County, Oregon Territory (appointed in May of 1863 to fill a vacancy); ran for county commissioner of Walla Walla County, Washington Territory on the Union Party ticket in May of 1867 and lost; ran for Washington State Representative for the 7th District on the Populist Ticket in 1898 and lost; served as a School Board Director for the Endicott School District #111 in 1898 (likely for other years also).

**June 2:** Supplina Hamilton conducts funeral service for William Headlee [55]

**June 23:** Supplina and Jane are enumerated in the 1900 US Census. They are living alone on their home place in Union Flat Creek, south of Endicott in Whitman County. They have family members living nearby. [70]

## 1901

**May 10:** Supplina Hamilton, gave the Sunday afternoon sermon in Pleasant Valley, WA. Pleasant Valley may have been a rail stop and small community near St. John, WA. Supplina likely preached at an outdoor 'basket meeting' where people from the surrounding communities came, enjoyed the preaching and brought their picnic basket lunches. Supplina and several of the Hamilton family graves are in the Pleasant Valley cemetery on State Highway 23 just east of St. John, WA. [56]

**June 9:** Supplina preaching in Penawawa in the morning before the start of the Hamilton family reunion at the Hamilton place on Union Flat Creek.

"Locust Lane, Penawawa: The basket meeting at the Locust Grove on the 9th was well attended, and judging from the pleasant faces and cordial greetings of all present, especially the young folks, all enjoyed the exercises which was in the forenoon presided over by Rev. S. Hamilton, as announced; but owing to feebleness from old age and an indisposition on account of a severe cold, after partaking of the many good things prepared for the occasion, returned home to join his wife in a happy reunion of three generations, which, including some more distant relatives, numbered sixty souls, many of whom are most near and dear to this venerable old couple. However, the afternoon services were ably conducted by visiting ministers of the Methodist and Free Methodist persuasion, who leave an appointment for a grove meeting at this place for the fourth Sunday in this month. An appointment was also left by the Rev. Mr. Hamilton for the second Sunday in July." *The Colfax Gazette*. [57]

Penawawa was a little community on the north shore of the Snake River 12 miles West of Almota where the first territorial road from Walla Walla to Spokane Falls crossed the Snake River. It was also a port on the Snake River for the Oregon Steamship Navigation Company. It no longer exists, covered by Lake Bryan, the back waters of the Little Goose Dam. It was well shaded with groves of trees and orchards watered from Penawawa Creek that emptied into the Snake. It was a central place on a main road and river route that area ministers could invite people to come on Summer Sundays for a 'basket meeting.'

These basket meetings (as in picnic baskets) were composed of a morning and an afternoon outdoor meeting in the park like setting of a grove of trees near the river. After the morning service everyone would break out their picnic baskets and share a meal potluck style. Most everyone would then head home after the afternoon meeting. The article above mentions that Supplina Hamilton had the morning service but did not stay for the afternoon meeting. He went home to meet his family gathering in for a reunion on the Hamilton place on Union Flat Creek. This was the second of three large Hamilton family reunions at the farm on Union Flat. The first was in June of 1898, the second was the one mentioned here in 1901, and the last reunion during Supplina's lifetime was in June of 1904.

**June 9:** The Hamilton family reunion at Supplina and Jane's home place on Union Flat creek began. The Hamiltons then had the custom of a full-family reunion every three years. [9, 57]

## 1902

Supplina and Jane sold their home and farm on Union Flat Creek and purchased 800 acres of farm land two miles south of St. John, WA. Their new farm was still close by family in Whitman County about 17 miles north of their old home place. [22]

**July 22:** Supplina Hamilton - U.S. Patent issued for invention: Swinging Gate; "Of Interest to the People of the Pacific Northwest: These patents where issued today... Washington - ... Supplina Hamilton, Swinging Gate;" *The San Francisco call*. [61]

Supplina Hamilton was an inventor. For much of his professional life he was a blacksmith and the nature of that trade is metal fabrication. For this invention, filed late in life, he was awarded U.S. Patent #705,401 on July 22, 1902. The invention was for a semi-automatic swinging gate that a driver on a buckboard or freight wagon could operate without having to dismount and leave his team. At least one contractor, Stewart and Pierce, Inc., in Yakima advertised that they had the license to build the patented Hamilton Swinging Gate. [63]

## 1904

**June 11:** Hamilton Family Reunion at Supplina and Jane's new home place south of St. John, WA. The event was covered by a newspaper reporter from *The Colfax Gazette*. Text of Article below:

### HAMILTON FAMILY REUNION.

Experience of One of the Early Pioneers in Indian Wars.

St. John, June 11 - The Hamilton home, three miles south of this place, was yesterday the scene of an unusual event - the third triennial reunion of the family of S. Hamilton, until lately a resident of Union flat, south of Endicott.

It was the forty-sixth anniversary of the marriage of S. Hamilton and Jane Sumpter, which occurred in the Willamette Valley, Oregon, in 1858. Though Mr. Hamilton is 72 years old, he is quite strong physically and mentally, as is also his wife, who is six years his junior. At the reunion yesterday, the nine children who have blessed their union, were all present. They are D. Hamilton, Starbuck; H. P. Hamilton, Endicott; Mrs. S. W. Smith, Spokane; Mrs. Dora Shaw, Deer Park; Mrs. S. S. Gilbert, Lenore, Idaho; Frank Hamilton, St. John; Judd Hamilton, Endicott; Mrs. Walter Gilbert, Lenore, Idaho; Mrs. C. C. Cole, St. John.

These old people enjoyed the presence also of thirty grandchildren and four great grandchildren. In the forenoon the assemblage, numbering something like 150, listened to phonograph selections, and to songs by children and friends present. Tables were spread with sufficient choice delicacies to have fed three hundred people and those fortunate enough to be present heartily enjoyed the spread. In the afternoon the guests were again favored with musical numbers, after which Mr. Hamilton gave a short sketch of his life and experiences in the Cayuse Indian war, of which he is a veteran. He said in part:

"I have had many thrilling experiences, but even in Indian wars I was never so embarrassed in all my life, as when I stood beside this woman here (pointing to his wife) forty six years ago to be married. I crossed the plains in 1851 and settled in the Willamette valley, where there seemed to be nothing at all for a young man to do but split rails, so I hired out and worked at splitting rails for three winters."

"In 1855 Governor Curry of Oregon territory called for volunteers to fight Indians. I went with an expedition into the Walla Walla country against Chief Pu Pu Mox Mox and his band. He was a wary old chieftain who, at the head of about 1200 warriors, laid a scheme to entrap us at the mouth of the Touchet canyon. He claimed, through the interpreter, that he had a feast prepared for us and would hold a conference with us at the mouth of the Touchet. Our men knew something by experience of Indian treachery, and would agree to no such plan. We decided, however, to hold Pu Pu Mox Mox and some other Indians as hostages until we could make terms with them. The interpreter passed back and forth several times with messages between us and the Indians, but at last the latter grew restive and fired on us as the interpreter was returning to our lines. We drove the Indians across Snake river, fighting at different times."

"One remarkable thing I noticed in particular during battle was the marked devotion the horses showed to their riders. I had a horse that was only too glad of a chance to break loose and run off, yet when I, with others of our company, was obliged to dismount in a skirmish, that horse never moved from where I left him. Another instance was that of a horse belonging to an Indian medicine man, who, believing himself impervious to bullets, rode out in the open in defiance of our men. A bullet pierced his brain, and in an instant he had fallen from his horse, but the animal, with dumb devotion to his master, turned and stood over the Indian's prostrate form, as if to shield him from further danger."

"In conclusion, children, I would say that I have tried to live a Christian and to set you an example worthy of imitation. Follow therein."

S. Hamilton was born in Cass County, Illinois 72 years ago and was left an orphan in early life. In 1851, when 19 years old, he crossed the plains to the 'Oregon country' and settled in the Willamette valley. At 20 he embraced Christianity, later preaching the gospel. In 1854 he met Miss Jane Sumpter, who became his bride four years later. In course of time the family moved to Walla Walla County, where they resided for thirteen years, removing to Union Flat in Whitman County in 1888, where they resided until about thirteen months ago. The place near St. John, comprising about 800 acres of excellent land, was purchased and the old people moved there.

Of the relatives present other than children and grandchildren, were Mrs. Minnie Saunders, Waverly; Mrs. Amanda Malcolm, Dayton; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Neilly, Moscow, Idaho.

In closing a number of songs and recitations were rendered, one of the last songs being sung by four little granddaughters, entitled "At the Cross," which piece was a favorite of their grandfather. After expressing the wish that these old people should live to see another reunion three years hence, the guests departed. *The Colfax Gazette*. [64]

## 1905

**Feb. 9, 7:15AM:** Though having been lively and in relative good health and sound mind, Supplina apparently suffered a stroke ('stricken with paralysis') on Saturday Feb. 4th and lost the ability to speak. After five days in this state, Supplina died at home near St. John the morning of Thursday, Feb. 9th. Supplina's funeral was the next day Friday Feb 10th at 11AM in their home south of St. John. The following day, Saturday February 11th, Supplina was buried in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, just east of St. John, Whitman County, WA.

Here is a quote from the end of Supplina's obituary, "The community has lost an intelligent citizen, the family a devoted father, and lifelong companion, and everyone who knew him has lost a kind friend."

Notice of Death: "DIED. Hamilton – St. John, Wash., February 9, S. Hamilton, aged 72 years." [66, 76]

Obituary: [7, 67]

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## **Document Version History**

Begun by Glen Maurice Hamilton on 9/8/2013 and expanded over the next few days. The document will be revised going forward as more and better information becomes available:

Version: 1.0 - 9/14/2013 first 'complete' non-draft version.

Version: 1.1 - 9/15/2013 added a few more sources and facts.

Version: 1.2 - 4/10/2014 corrected typos, grammatical and timeline issues and added more sources.

Version: 1.3 - 6/4/2016 added new information from 1866.

If you have a questions, additions or corrections please contact:

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