

From a transcript of David Mayes Burnett biography was handwritten by an unknown person, no date. It is guessed that the original of this biography was written about 1946.

### David Mayes Burnett

In 1870 my parents, Thomas M. Burnett and Nellie Mayes Burnett, came to Oregon by way of Isthmus of Panama locating on a farm near Silverton, and where I was born Oct 11th that same year 1870. My mother passed away at my birth. A short time later my father went into Linn Co. On a farm between Stayton and Scio, purchasing the Dr. Cole farm in the Cole district. When I was about 6 years of age my father married a Mrs Mary Francis Lewis who had 2 sons William & John C Lewis. They lived on this farm until 1883 when my father passed away, leaving me a boy of 13.

Beginning at the age of 14, I made my own way following railroad construction, building it from Corvallis to Mill City. Completing this work, I spent the years of 1885 & 1886 in Goldendale (Washington) spending a portion of this time carrying the mail by horses and sleigh, from Goldendale Wa to Centerville. Balance of the years I spent on my Uncle Neil Burnetts farm (he being a bachelor I tried my skill at cooking for my Uncle, my bro John and myself).

In 1887 returned to RR work at Touchet (??) near Walla Walla (Washington) and worked for this RR in track department, following this work for about 12 years. Transferring from this work to the building of the Columbia Southern from Biggs to Wasco spending 2 years on this work. After its completion, I returned to the old home farm in Linn Co remaining 2 years.

In the year 1903 I removed to Gilliam Co (Oregon), buying a stock ranch of 1300 acres from Jim Snipes, near Condon (Oregon). Then buying a farm near Turner Ore. After 2 years here going back to RR work with the U P (Union Pacific) in 1907 and following this work until 1916 and in 1917 with the S P (Southern Pacific) Co at Jefferson and in May of 1918 taking a leave of absence from this Co I took up timber work of ship knees and piling for the Govt until the close of the World War I. Returning on a farm at Jeff (Jefferson)

During my railroad career I had charge of construction the Canby Molalla line in 1913. My brother John Burnett and half brother James Otis Carter, and step brother John C Lewis followed this same line of work at the same time I did. Another brother Walter Frances

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Burnett was an engineer. Of all these brothers I am the only one living.

D M Burnett

Note - David Mayes Burnett passed away at his home at Jefferson, Oregon Nov 11 - 1947 at the age of 77 years.