

Hill Cemetery—Sacred Ground

Isaac Hill donated this land for a free community burial ground in August 1853 during the Indian War of that year. His 19-year-old nephew Isham P. Keith had died on the battlefield and was placed in a shallow grave covered with rocks and bush. Three days later, a company of men retrieved Keith's remains and buried him in Hill Cemetery. Seventeen others rapidly followed Keith in finding a resting place here that year.

Following the deaths of Isaac Hill and his wife Elizabeth, daughter Martha Hill sold a portion of the land, but kept two acres for the cemetery, honoring her father's wishes. Isaac's 83-year-old daughter Ann Hill Russell succeeded in having her family's hallowed ground remembered by the coming generations when the cemetery was honored on Decoration Day, May 30, 1921. The Ashland

Military Post (American Legion) formed a committee to spruce up and maintain the grounds. Ann thanked the committee . . . *for the time given to complete the unfinished designs and desires of those who sleep under the now protected sod of this sacred spot and guard henceforth all who sleep in the Hill Cemetery.*



Ann Hill Russell and Mary Hill Dunn, daughters of Isaac Hill, at Hill Cemetery, ca. 1921. Ann's husband J. H. Russell quarried and finished the headstones from local Oregon marble while Mrs. A. H. Russell carved and lettered them.