

Heroes of North Portland

Celebrate, preserve, and promote the diverse history of North Portland.



kingportandodd.com/mural.htm



Based on the old St. Johns Post Office murals painted by Portland artist John Ballator, our proposed mural features: Wan Jower, Dr. Merriman, Captain Circle, Charles Ritter, Robert Irish, William Killingsworth, Hattie Redmond, Reuben Crawford, Thomas Monahan, Sohan Singh Baknah, Lefie Sitton, and Charles Sitton. Visit the Museum of Odd History to learn more about these heroes.

| Person | Lodge or Benevolent Society | Historical impact | Location on Mural |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| John Ballator | Possibly Knights of Columbus | Prominent Portland Muralist. Commissioned for murals throughout the U.S. including the Kennedy DOJ building. Painted the murals at the St. Johns post office that our mural is based on. | First person Front Left |
| Wan Jower | Chinese Benevolent Society | Major benefactor of schools in St. Johns. Owned <i>W. Jower Dry Goods and Notions</i> , a store that was in St. Johns for 100 years. | Second person Front Left |
| Dr. Merriman | New Northwest Odd Fellows | Oregon's first Black physician, Editor and founder of the <i>Portland Times</i> , Founding President of the Portland chapter of the NAACP | Third person Front Left |
| Capt. Circle | Woodlawn Odd Fellows | Founder of the Sunshine Division, Considered the "Father of Community Policing" | First person Back Left |
| Charles Ritter | New Northwest Odd Fellows | Editor of the "New Age" Portland's first African American newspaper | Second person Back Left |
| Robert Irish | Laurel Odd Fellows | Editor of the "St. Johns Review" North Portland's oldest newspaper | Second person Back Left |
| William Killingsworth | Peninsula Odd Fellows | Real estate developer of North Portland, major financial backer of the St. Johns City Hall building, owned the N. Portland trolleys. | First person center |
| Hattie Redmond | Golden West Household of Ruth | Famous Portland Suffragist. After women gained the right to vote, Hattie co-founded several political advocacy organizations. | Second person center |
| Reuben Crawford | New Northwest Odd Fellows | Known as the "Dean of Shipcaulkers". Founding deacon of Mt. Olivett Baptist Church, Founding member of the Bedrock Republican club. Father of Hattie Redmond. | Third person center |
| Thomas Monahan | Laurel Odd Fellows | Trolley conductor turned St. Johns civil servant. City councilman, Post master, President of St. John Library Association, top booster of the St. Johns bridge. | Fourth person center |
| Sohan Singh Baknah | Unknown | Punjabi worker in St. Johns during 1910 anti-immigrant riots. Resisted the mob trying to drive the Punjabi workers out of town. Founder of the Ghadar party which fought against British colonization of India. | Fifth person center |
| Lefie Sitton | Columbia Rebekahs | First woman to serve in a major political office in Oregon. Elected 11 years before women had the right to vote. Sitton School in St Johns is named after her. | First person Front Right |
| Charles Sitton | Samaritan Odd Fellows | Business partner of Stephen Skidmore. When Skidmore died Charles Sitton embarked on a public works campaign to honor his friend, including the Skidmore fountain, Skidmore Block building, and Skidmore street. | Second person Front Right |
| Pony express rider | N/A | Included in the original New Deal mural to represent the Postal Service. Not an actual person. | First person Back Right |
| Locomotive Engineer | N/A | Included in the original New Deal mural to represent progress. Not an actual person. | Second person Back Right |