

A history of Kerbyville

Kerby's history began in 1853, when James Kerby took up a donation claim of 160 acres of land. Dr. Daniel Sherman Holton, a resident of Waldo, which was at the time the county seat, was interested in having the county seat in a town more centrally located. He spoke to Kerby about starting on a town on Kerby's claim, and they agreed.

It is reported that Holton bought parcel after parcel of land from Kerby. He plotted out Kerbyville and is considered the founding father. His was the first house in Kerby.

Kerbyville became the Josephine County seat in 1857 until 1885, when it moved to Grants Pass. The name of Kerbyville was shortened years later to Kerby. For a time, it was also referred to Napoleon. Kerby was a very important area in Josephine County. In its hey day it had several saloons, grocery stores, hotels, and of course, a jail.

(Taken from *Golden Days and Pioneer Ways* by Ruth Pfefferle).



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