

The Gates of AURONA

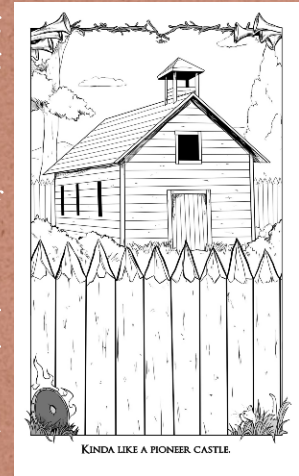
ADVENTURE GUIDE:
THE SECRET HEART

Can you find your town's Secret Heart?

Towns start for different reasons. Some towns began as logging settlements. Some began as port towns. Some began as way stations along trails or railroads. Others began as religious colonies. And yet others began as military forts.

In these cases perhaps to you the secret heart of your town is the site of a fort or a church or place where the boats first pulled ashore.

And perhaps there is more than one site that served as the heart of your town. Hannah and Cameron learn that there were several hearts to their town, but only one which was ancient—a gathering place of Native Americans dating back hundreds of years before the first European explorers set foot in the Tualatin Valley.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CREATE A SECRET HEART GUIDE FOR YOUR OWN AREA, this may prove to be the most difficult guide yet! Depending on the area where you live, there may not be record where those very first folks gathered. You will need to learn a little about the early history of your area in order to decide for yourself what that ancient heart might be. (The library and the local historical society/museum are good places to start.) Perhaps it wasn't a gathering place, but the location of a favorite fishing hole or the site where a treaty was signed, or stage of a favorite legend. Each Secret Heart will be just as different as the town it represents.



ADVENTURERS CAN WIN GATES GEAR

Send me a picture of yourself at the location of your town's Secret Heart and tell me the story behind why you chose it. Once I receive your picture, you will be entered to win **GATES GEAR** as part of the launch party for each new book in the series!

- OR -

Send me a digital copy of your town sign or your secret heart drawing from the end of this guide to tonya@tonyamacalino.com. (All images received will be posted to www.tonyamacalino.com.)



The Secret Heart: Tracing from Old to Ancient

A 15-MINUTE DRIVE, PLUS STOPS

The Troyers may have walked the distance between Hillsboro's three secret hearts, but unless you've brought a sewing kit and an extra pair of fuzzy socks to protect your feet on the hike, we won't ask you to!

You will not need to pack any special provisions for this tour. The drive is brief. The only parts of the tour with any length will be the portions where you stop and imagine the place as it once was. Perhaps your provisions would be a sketch book and a good pencil!

Our exploration begins at:



STARBUCKS

102 E Main St
Hillsboro, OR 97123

From the maps I've studied, it appears that David Hill's cabin was right about here. (They didn't exactly use GPS to make those early maps; we have to go with our best estimate.) So welcome to the third secret heart of Hillsboro!

It's difficult to picture this area as trees and grassland with nothing but a simple, rough cabin standing here. Most people don't realize the deep roots they stand upon when they walk through this place. The ritual of the Atfalati's seasonal burns to maintain their sources of harvest. The struggles David and his friends faced in the damp misery of their first years in this valley. This heart of Hillsboro's beautiful secret is memorialized only in our imaginations.

For perspective, everything from 5th to Dairy Creek was David's Donation Land Claim. He constructed a main cabin and several outbuildings in this area, but his modest cabin served as post office and courthouse for several years. He had intended that this plot house our first official courthouse, but sadly David passed on rather unexpectedly before that could happen.

It had also David's intention that Hillsboro be named Columbia, but in honor of his service both to the community and to the Oregon Territory (he was a member of the first three-man governorship), residents chose the name Hill's Borough or as we know it today "Hillsboro."

The courthouse would ultimately be built across the street on David's friend and fellow 1841 pioneer, Isaiah Kelsey's Donation Land Claim. Let's walk up a ways so we can get a better look at the...



PORTER SEQUOIAS

South Courthouse Lawn
Hillsboro, OR 97123

This was once the entrance to the Washington County Courthouse. The building you see here is actually the sixth county courthouse. The first county courthouse was on the property of Edward Constable and was known as the Methodist Meeting House (1844). The second (1850-52) was one of David Hill's cabins. The third was a cedar plank structure on the courthouse block but on the northwest corner. In 1871, we got our first brick courthouse at the head of this path: a stout rectangular block with a pretty little roof line up top.

This transition from cedar to brick was the source of a small bit of scandal as County Commissioner Ulysses Jackson's brother somehow received the contract for clearing the cedar building and his neighbor somehow received the contract for supplying the brick. Whoops!

In 1891, our stout brick building got a massive upgrade, this time with a lovely clock tower. In the way of many construction projects, this went well over budget and there was no money left for the clockworks. Ever the clever folk, our city ancestors painted the face on! (Don't worry—no confusing painted hands!)

This was also around the time these beautiful trees were planted. Of the eight planted, these are the five survivors of the second batch of trees. (The first set were planted to grace the first brick courthouse in 1876, but they all died.)

Two fun stories here: The Porter Sequoias are named after pioneer nurseryman, John Porter. Like many of his contemporaries, John caught gold fever not long after he got here and raced off to California to get rich. He came back with these tough little seed cones instead and made his legacy. In case you are wondering: sequoias are not native to this area. Any you see here are almost certainly John's trees!

Second fun story: When John came out to plant his trees (he lived close to Verboort), he had to borrow a shovel from John Wesley Jackson's livery stable. Do we remember who John Wesley Jackson was? That's right! He gave Hillsboro the first Jackson Schoolhouse! (He was also Ulysses Jackson's son.)

As for the current and sixth incarnation of the courthouse? In 1928, they made a public show of tearing down the old brick building and started over from scratch. (Makes one curious what they did with all that brick!) Our center for county legal proceedings was rebuilt in the style of a Greek temple. If you have time on this tour, you can play count the lions!

The two other administrative buildings were added in the 1970s.

Before we move on, I'll ask you to turn around and take a look out on the plaza we're currently standing on.



TOM HUGHES CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
150 E Main St
Hillsboro, OR 97123

When I first moved here, a series of buildings much like the rest of downtown occupied this space. These were torn down to make a living room for Hillsboro to play in. The art for this plaza is a Native American sculpture called “Riverbed” by Lillian Pitt which recreates the Columbia River Gorge and the petroglyphs which once lined the stone of the river before it was dammed up and the gorge flooded. I’m sure you remember the rest of the story from book five! (But see if you can find She Who Watches! Remember: She lived high up on a cliff, so she could watch her people below.)

This plaza is also where the King of the Fire Eagles made his proclamation in book six that sent the citizens of Hillsboro on their epic march to the second secret heart of Hillsboro.

I’ll let you choose your mode of transportation, but if you are planning on walking, I suggest grabbing something to drink here in downtown before heading out. In particular, I highly recommend Insomnia Coffee near Third and Main where I did a great deal of writing and research for this series. It’s a cozy community space beloved of the locals here.



INSOMNIA COFFEE
317 E Main St
Hillsboro, OR 97123

From Main, we will walk or drive North on Second Street past Bagley Park where Bryson’s birthday party took place all the way out to Grant. On Grant, we will turn right until Jackson School Road. We will walk/drive past Jackson School Elementary until we reach Evergreen Parkway. We will turn right on Evergreen and continue on until we reach Starr Blvd. On Starr, we will turn left.

We will be stopping in front of the 1890 Shute-Constable House (also known as the Shute-Meierjurgan Farmstead.) Yes, this was John Shute’s house, the banker who financed Orange Phelps’s theater and whose ghost advised Hannah and Cameron when they met in the Venetian Theatre



SHUTE-CONSTABLE HOUSE

4825 NE Starr Blvd
Hillsboro, OR 97124

You may already have noticed that the grassy field across from the house has been transformed into an industrial complex. But hopefully soon you will notice something else: The developer will be installing a Methodist Meeting House monument honoring the five half-Nez Perce children of Joe and Virginia Meek who were buried there. Judy Goldmann (Joe and Virginia's great granddaughter) and Dirk Knudsen along with a team of community members worked with the developer to make sure a proper memorial to the beginning our town and the beginnings of our state governance were properly memorialized—for which we owe them all a huge debt of gratitude.



(Concept art © Studio-MLA)

METHODIST MEETING HOUSE

4826 NE Starr Blvd
Hillsboro, OR 97124

According to my research, the importance of the Methodist Meeting House site is twofold. (Beyond harboring gate keys, of course!) The building itself was the 2nd organized church built in the Oregon Territory in 1844. Before the building was constructed, the site had been used for worship, including hosting a sermon conducted in 1843 by Jason Lee—the Methodist missionary who promoted the settlement of the Oregon Territory.

However, the building was not just used for Methodist gatherings, but as the only public building on the plains, served other denominations as well. Notably, in the early days of the Oregon Provisional and Territorial Governments, it served as a courtroom. (Many of the leaders of that early government lived in this valley, including: Joe Meek, David Hill, Charles McKay, and more. David Hill, our town's founder, served as one of the first governors alongside two other men.)

Important early legislation took place at the Methodist Meeting House, including actions on claim jumping (stealing people's land), a transgression which was rapidly becoming a problem as Donation Land Claims were all taken up. The structure was also used for county hearings, including a difference of opinion between pioneers and

mountain men regarding the sinfulness of playing cards—a serious question of morals in those days.

During a period of Native American unrest in 1855, a stockade was briefly added to create a defensible position for local families if an attack occurred. This building was the center. The center of spirituality; the center of community, the center of governance, the center of defense.

It was the center of Hillsboro's beginnings as town and an economic and governmental powerhouse in the early Oregon Territory. A fact of which most people are not aware. Hence, the secret nature of this second heart.

The second important aspect is the graveyard. The children whose remains were left behind were the children of Joe and Virginia Meek. Lost children were:



INFANT MEEK
1854

HIRAM MEEK
May 13, 1858

DALLAS MEEK
July 13, 1858

WILLIAM H.H. MEEK
February 17, 1860

JOSEPHINE MEEK
(Pictured)
October 25, 1845 - December 22, 1860

If you don't remember from the books, Joe Meek was the Kit Carson/Daniel Boone of the Oregon Territory. A big man able to spin a clever yarn, he was well-loved and well-known in the territory. (His biography was a national best-seller.)

Joe Meek was the man to finally force a vote on whether this up-for-grabs territory should join the union. Later, he also became the one to complete the trip back to Washington, D.C. in the middle of winter—at least part of the way on foot—to convince Congress to accept the bid for us to become part of the United States. This effort was under a great deal of pressure from the threat of Native American retaliation, as without the protection of the United States, we had no access to the U.S. militia. But Joe was persuasive (and also the cousin-in-law of the President) and he managed to win the day.

Joe went on to serve Oregon in a variety of prestigious capacities, including as the first Marshall of the Oregon Territory—and always with a ready quip. In fact, you could say he was originator of the Hillsboro spirit: a get 'er done attitude, coupled with a sense of community and an easy sense of humor.

This great man and his equally amazing Nez Perce wife—a woman who found herself unwittingly bridging the gap between two clashing cultures—it is their children's bones which were likely destroyed when the grove that was known to shelter them was harvested and turned into farmland. It was their story which was plowed under without proper memorial.

You can imagine it was such a moment of peace when the generous 2019 agreement between the team and the developers was finalized.

If you have your twig gate key, we will now continue our march (or drive). We will turn back to Evergreen Parkway and continue following it east until we reach Brookwood Parkway. There we will turn left and cross the overpass. Brookwood will become Helvetia Road. We will only be on Helvetia for a moment. The first right will be Jacobson. Follow Jacobson around the curve. Turn right on Casper. Before Casper becomes Clara (at the bend) stop and find a park spot. You have arrived at...



FIVE OAKS
23798 NW Clara Ln
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Finally, we have arrived at Hillsboro's ancient and secret heart: Five Oaks. Like Hannah said in book seven, only one of the original five hundred-year-old white oaks remains. According to Dr. David Lewis with the Grand Ronde, the Atfalati band's name for this place, *Chatakuin*, meant Place of Mortar and Pestle. He interprets this to mean that there was likely a root field nearby and that the Atfalati used this landmark as a place to store their huge mortar and pestles to process the annual harvest. Each group of the band was responsible for tending certain fields according to a ritual calendar that required a seasonal travel. The Atfalati form of agriculture involved burning and selective harvest where they grew naturally with a view to the next reaping, rather than collecting all the various forms of plant and animal into a singular family farm.

While we have lost much of the detail of this ritual harvest calendar/map, Five Oaks or *Chatakuin* remains a beautiful reminder of this ingenious system. Even following the apocalypse that decimated the Native populations of the Tualatin Valley, Five Oaks remained a way station on the thousand-years-old trail which passed very near here and became a main trading route to Portland.

As the Atfalati travelers had used this space for rest and business and ritual, early mountain men and settlers also adopted the space as a gather spot. The first Fourth of

July celebration was held here—a gathering which combined both European and Native Americans. When retired mountain men like Joe Meek wanted to relive their glory days, they would also come here and drink to the memory of their trapper days, calling this their Rocky Mountain Retreat.

In The Gates of Auròna all the many layers of memory come together in the great battle between the love and kindness of the Hillsboro Army and the grief and bitterness of Spina de Mùl. All the ancestors come together for one final night of tall tales and good food around the bonfire.

A lovely ending to our journey together.

And if you would like a lovely ending to your own journey, may I suggest finishing off with a meal at ABV Public House, just a short walk from this circle of trees, facing Highway 26 next door to Siemens. (It's a bit of a community secret as it has no sign on the building—only a sandwich board out front—but EVERYBODY knows where it is!)



ABV PUBLIC HOUSE
5676 NE NW Clara Ln
Hillsboro, OR 97124

And don't forget to share a tall tale or two!

Name Your Town

HISTORICAL EXPLORATION GUIDE

David Hill picked a name for his town: Columbia. This was a patriotic choice on his part. The name Columbia was taken from the name Christopher Columbus. Columbia had been a term for many years referring to the original thirteen colonies of the New World and to a political cartoon character that was an early version of Lady Liberty. David Hill's sudden and untimely death inspired people to give the platted town another name: Hill's Borough. Over time, the name was shortened to Hillsboro. Other nearby towns were named after land features such as Forest Grove and North Plains or beloved homes left behind such as Kansas City or Farmington.

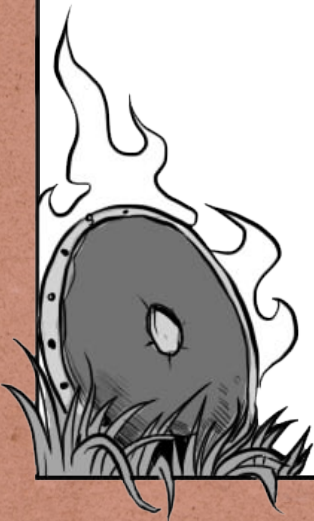
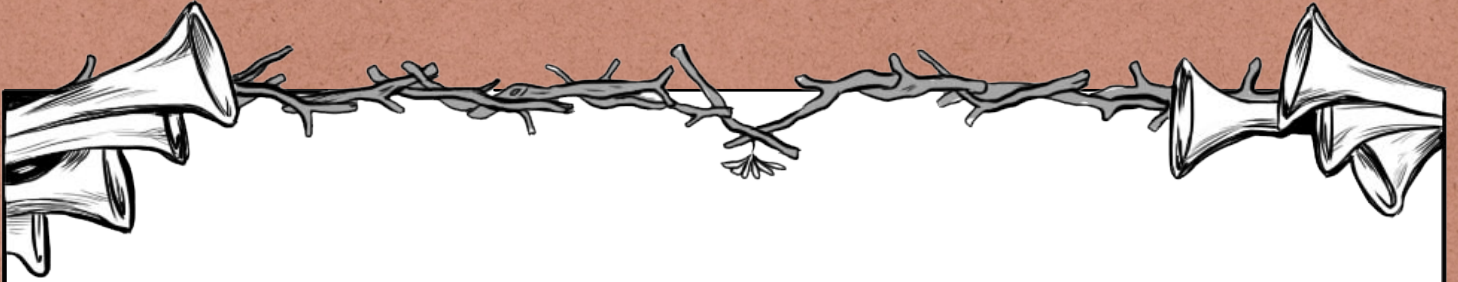
Imagine now that you are an early pioneer and have just platted a town of your own. How would you choose a name? Draw a welcome sign for your town below!



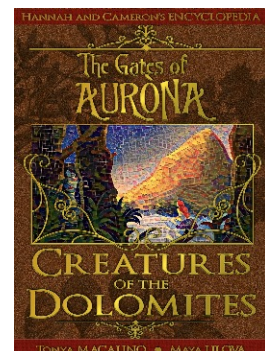
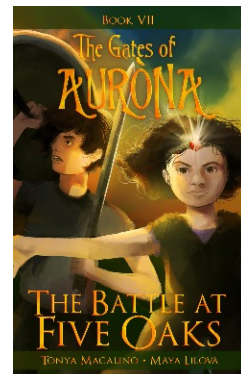
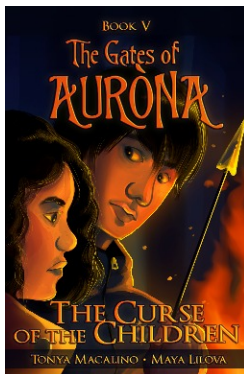
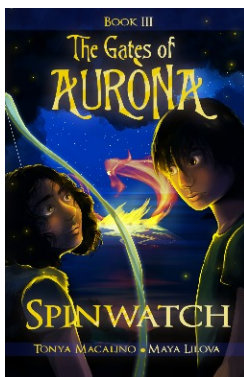
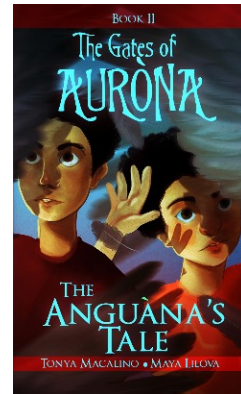
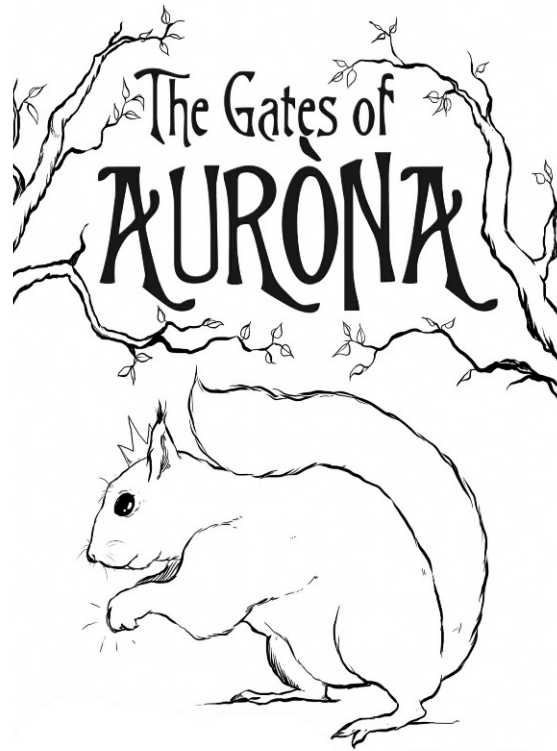
The Secret Heart of Your Town

HISTORICAL EXPLORATION GUIDE

Do you know where the secret heart of your town is? Is there a place in your town that is special to your family? What does it look like? How does it feel different when you go there compared to other places in your town? What makes this place magical for you?



Collect all 10 Books!



Check www.TonyaMacalino.com for release dates.

THE GATES OF AURÓNA ADVENTURE GUIDE: THE SECRET HEART

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