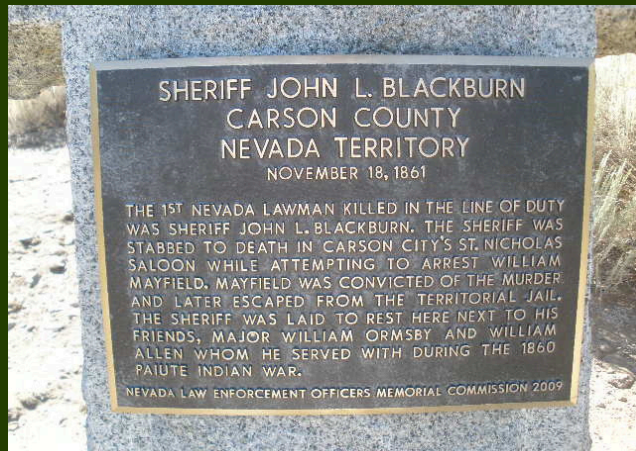




Sheriff John L. Blackburn's service and sacrifice remain part of the proud history of Carson City and Nevada law enforcement. May his legacy never be forgotten.

Special thanks are extended to the Potter Family, the Julia Bulette Chapter of E Clampus, Mark Amodei, and the many dedicated Carson City residents whose efforts made this memorial possible.



**IN HONOR AND
REMEMBRANCE**
SHERIFF JOHN L. BLACKBURN
CARSON COUNTY
NEVADA TERRITORY - 1861
CARSON CITY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF KEN FURLONG



**NEVADA
LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE
PRICE, MAY WE HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE BY NEVER
FORGETTING.**



John L. Blackburn started his law enforcement career in late 1859 as the Deputy U.S. Marshal for the Second Judicial District Court in the Utah Territory. As Carson County, U.T., was re-established after the lawless period of 1857-1858, he took on an important law enforcement role while the county townships reorganized for elections. He soon added the duties of watchman for the new town called Carson City. The following year, Blackburn was elected High Sheriff of Carson County, U.T. On September 6, 1860, he took office and became a lawman serving at three levels of authority. Blackburn then became warden of the branch territorial prison in his log-cabin jail on the southwest corner of Carson and Proctor Street in Carson City.

When Governor James W. Nye organized the Nevada Territory in July 1861, John L. Blackburn was the only Carson County official to survive the county's reorganization. One reason he was indispensable was that he paid the rent on the jail building, fed the prisoners, and covered his own costs out of his personal finances. He could never redeem cash for the county script that served as his compensation.

At the start of the Nevada Territory, he served solely as Sheriff. Yet the workload of the new Territory was so heavy that he became the first Sheriff on the East Slope to need Deputy Sheriffs to enforce the law. In the next few months, three of his deputies were badly injured by attempts on their lives.

On November 18, 1861, John spent much of his day searching for a fugitive wanted for murder from California and was later stabbed and killed at the St. Nicholas Saloon.

Sheriff John L. Blackburn was survived by Sarah Blackburn, his twenty-year-old wife, and Minnie Musser Blackburn, his baby daughter of less than a year.

PROGRAM

1. OPENING COMMENTS

Frank Adams, NV Law Enforcement Memorial
Commissioner

Sheriff Ken Furlong, Carson City Sheriff

2. POSTING OF COLORS

3. Carson City Sheriff's Honor Guard

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. INVOCATION

Chaplain Joel Buxton
Carson City Sheriff's Chaplain

6. HISTORY OF SHERIFF JOHN L. BLACKBURN

Bob Ellison
Local law enforcement historian and author

7. WORDS FROM THE FAMILY

Rebecca Blackburn-Litton

8. PRESENTATION OF THE WREATH

9. DEDICATION OF PLAQUE

Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong

10. CLOSING COMMENTS



On November 18, 2009, the Carson City Sheriff's Office gathered at the Carson City Pioneer Cemetery to honor Sheriff John L. Blackburn, the first Nevada peace officer known to have been killed in the line of duty.

In recognition of Sheriff Blackburn's service and sacrifice, a bronze memorial plaque was placed on the granite cross near his believed resting place. The dedication was held on the 148th anniversary of his death, ensuring that his place in Nevada law enforcement history would not be forgotten. The Carson City Pioneer Cemetery is owned by the Potter Family of Carson City. The granite cross was erected by the Julia Bulette Chapter of E Clampus Vitus in 1964 in recognition of Nevada's Centennial. Both the Potter Family and the Julia Bulette Chapter graciously granted permission for the placement of the memorial plaque.