

*Publisher's Note: A copy of this manuscript was passed to Carol Zolkoske of the St. Boniface Community Archives & Museum by a relative of the Stayton - Gardner families who requested anonymity but asked that it be published after these many decades in the dark. Charlene Pietrok Pierce, also of the Archives & Museum staff, typed the manuscript and Henry Strobel published it on [www.sublimityhistory.net](http://www.sublimityhistory.net) in July of 2013. At the same time he compiled the accompanying Stayton, Gardner, and Thomas family trees.*

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## A Personal, Readable History of Stayton, Oregon

*Here is history we've not read before. A composite of memories by real Stayton people, unpolished and unexpurgated, but as close as we get to real history. It begins orderly enough with a grand-daughter of Abner Davis Gardner (apparently Norma Gardner, born 1888, married Frederick William Lau, 1911, died 1982), and progresses through the sometimes gossipy but always sound story telling of Aunt Nell. (Nell Mary Stayton, born 1874, died 1965, never married). You can almost hear her. We have not tampered with the spelling! (We apologize for any errors in typing the manuscript.)*

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“What I want to share with you is not what I remember about Stayton but what I have found out about this place before my time.”

**1851** Drury Smith Stayton was captain of the train of emigrants who crossed the plains by ox teams to Oregon. It took the Stayton's 3 days to come down Larch Mountain. They fastened logs to back of wagon to hold them back. Part of the wagon train went to California. That is started to California, but very few ever reached California. But Drury Smith Stayton had malaria every summer in Missouri. He had read that in the Willamette Valley, there was no Malaria. He was determined to come to the Willamette Valley. The gold of California did not lure him, not certain whether the group that started to California were attacked by Indians or got lost & perished.

He homesteaded just this side of Sublimity – now the Minden farm. He built first a log cabin, later a house of lumber hewn by hand. Dug up wild crab apple roots, planted them and grafted in good apple stock. Soon had a fine orchard of fruit bearing trees. Drury Smith Stayton was by trade a brick mason and a nurseryman and an old School Baptist Preacher. This from Anna Stayton, his daughter-in-law, “He was a fine intelligent man. May I call D.S. Stayton, Grandfather Stayton? At the time Grandfather Stayton came to Sublimity there was no road South of Sublimity just an impassable Swamp.

Two years later – **1853**, my Grandfather and Grandmother Gardner crossed the plains in a covered wagon arrived in the Willamette Valley in late Fall – They spent that winter down near Jefferson. Next Spring, 1854, moved to their D.L.C. (Donation Land Claim) in Fox Valley. [2 mi. east of Lyons, Oregon] My Grandmother told me that when she first saw the place where Stayton now is, it was covered with tall fir timber. They had to go from their homestead in Fox Valley all the way to Salem to trade. It took 3 days to make the round trip. Once she bought brown denim to make clothes for the children but she forget to buy thread. She had to use the ravelings from the brown denim to sew with. She too lived in a log cabin.

Jerome Grier recalls when he first saw the sight of the town of Stayton it was all huge fir timber - The largest he ever remembers seeing and so dense one could scarcely see the sun at noon.

**1855** - A Church of God was organized down on Mill Creek – Now not far from the City limits of Stayton. When the Christian Church was organized in Stayton March 18, 1881 many members from the Mill Creek Church put their membership in the Stayton Christian Church.  
In the year **1857** the Salem Ditch was dug. First ditch you cross going to town.

In **1862**, my Grandfather Gardner moved from his farm in Fox Valley, just for a short time, to a farm near Salem, so he could send the children to school. At that time there was only 1 ferry boat on North Santiam River. It was at G\_\_n's\_ bridge. There was a county road on what now is 1<sup>st</sup> St. here in Stayton and there was a good fording place on the Santiam just west of our bridge. So my Grandfather Gardner forded the Santiam drove up 1<sup>st</sup> St. forded the Salem Ditch. At that time there was a log cabin where Thurston Thomas use to live. A Mr. Lynch lived there – There was also an old deserted log cabin near where Mrs. Clarence Beauchamp lives.

That was all that was here in **1862** except timber, the Santiam River and the Salem Ditch. 1861 and 1862 was the year of the Big Flood, followed by a very cold winter. Pioneers lost cattle. Two yrs. later my mother crossed the plains in a covered wagon to Oregon. ???? They spent their 1<sup>st</sup> year near Jefferson, and tied to the back of every log cabin was a canoe. When they ask why? They were told of the big flood in 1862. They were prepared for the next flood but to my knowledge it never came.

**1865** - An other emigrant train left Missouri for Oregon. In this emigrant train were two brothers & their families, their sister, and her husband & family. The two brothers were Charles & John Thomas, their sister commonly known as Aunt I\_\_\_ and her husband was Rev. William Jeter, a Baptist preacher. Rev. Jeter traded for a farm just west of here. Chas. John Thomas & families, lived for 2 years in the old Mission house below Salem. Then moved to Sublimity where they made furniture. There was no water power at Sublimity. They had to furnish their own power by peddling with their feet like the old sewing machines. Grandfather Stayton invited the Thomas Bros. To come down on Moses' Ditch & build a cabinet shop where they could run their machines by water power..

**1866** - Drury Stayton came here and bought 40 acres, more or less, from James T. Lynch on May 25, 1866 for a consideration of \$120.00, date of record – Dec. 24, 1866. This was dense forest fir trees and he started to build a saw mill.

In the Summer of **1866** my Father and his brother, Wesley, hauled tan bark into Salem. The tannery was someplace near where the penitentiary is now. They forded the river here , drove up the co. road (now 1<sup>st</sup> St.) forded the Salem ditch, and often stopped at Mr. Lynch's log cabin to eat their lunch and to get a drink of water from his cold spring. They camped at night sleeping under their wagons. This was the Summer, the Summer of 1866 that Grandfather Stayton & his oldest son, Gabriel, started clearing a place to build a saw mill. And what progress they were making. They had to hew out lumber for the foundation of the saw mill but they finished building the saw mill after they began sawing lumber. Their saw ran down thru the log. It took them 3 or 4 yrs. to finish the mill, but during this time, Grandfather Stayton built a carding machine shop for his son, Drury Erastus, and A sash & door factory for his son-in-law, Geo. Cusick.

A younger son, Moses, started digging a ditch to bring enough water from the Santiam river to the mill to turn the water wheel. Now there was a natural dry slough from the river to the mill sight which was located on the ??? of ground where Lee Brown's Batt Factory now stands. This slough Moses dug deeper & wider with only the help of a shovel & wheel barrow. My father & his brother, Wesley, often stopped to visit.

John and Charles Thomas made bed steads, bureaus, cupboards, tables, chairs and coffins when someone died. They took the measurement of the body made a coffin of wood and covered it with black velvet and trimmed it with Black silk fringe. Sometimes they would have to work all night to finish a coffin.

**1868** - Charles & John Thomas moved to Stayton and built a cabinet shop on the ditch Moses had dug with a shovel and a wheel barrow.

**1871** W.H. Hobson had the first General Store in a small shack down by the Ferry. I do not have the date of the first Ferry but in 1871 Jerome Grier operated a Ferry across the Santiam. Soon after in 1871 – W.H. Hobson was married. He & his wife boarded at Anna Stayton's – Until he built a store on the North side of Water St. & in back of his store a room where he & his wife lived. It was in front of this store, in a wooden tub that the pony

expressed tossed the mail – Wouldn't it have been interesting to have been the first one to the tub and to find out who got a letter and where from?

About that time Grandfather Stayton & Mr. W.H. Hobson promised the settlers on the other side of the Santiam River if they would come here to trade they would pay their fare across the Ferry.

**1871** - A school house meeting was called on the first day of July in 1871 and a one room (20 x 30 ft.) school house was built, and it was to be called District No. 77, Marion County, Oregon. According to records at the Court House this became official May 30, 1871.

On motion, Drury Smith Stayton was called to the chair, Charles Thomas chosen Clerk protem. Proceeded by ballot to elect Directors B. Kimsey chosen director for 1 yr. Drury Smith Stayton chosen director for 2 yrs. John Thomas chosen directory for 3 yrs. Charles Thomas Clerk.

Charles Thomas and his wife, Mary Thomas, for the consideration of a District School house – convey unto the Directors of School Dist. #77, the following described premises - “As long as said premises are used strictly for educational and religious purpose.” This deed was notarized by Geo. S. Downing Justice of the Peace.

**1872** - Stayton was plotted and named. John Grier surveyed – Drury Smith Stayton & W.H. Hobson carried the chains.

John Grier said we surveyed 6 blocks from East to West & North to the Salem Ditch. When Grandfather Stayton was ask what shall we call this town, he ansered “Let it be called Florence, for my youngest daughter.” So, Florence was the name sent in to the P.O. Dept. Word came back, “There is already a Florence in Oregon. So the men of the town – not Grandfather Stayton – said “Let us call the new town Stayton.”

Dr. Samuel D. McCauley was appointed the first Post Master May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1872.

**1872**, Feb. 16 – First yearly report of School Dist. #77:

Number of legal voters – 14 (by 1873 the number of legal voters was 34, more than double.

Number over 4, under 20 yrs of age – 28 Average attendance – 17

Number of quarters taught – 1 (3 months)

Teacher – Selecta Jane Gardner

Amount paid teacher from Dist. Rate Bill \$75.00

Geo. W. Cusick was elected director

Chas. Thomas re-chosen Clerk

Rev. Wm Jeter organized the Baptist Church here – in the one room school house. Now this was legal – for the deed stated “Strictly for educational and religious purposes” & the school house was built before Chas & Mary Thomas gave a deed to the property.

**Abt. 1874** – Hobson & Whitney became partners in the General Store on Water St. Mr. Whitney hauled their supplies from Portland. It took 5 days to make the trip to Portland and back again. Most of the supplies he got in Portland had been shipped around Cape Horn.

**1875** - Whitney and Hobson built the Grist Mill. It still stands at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> St. It was a burr Mill – They sent East to Minnesota for a miller – Nathon Young was his name. One more wheel for Moses Stayton's ditch to turn.

Just 3 years after the town was plotted and named, Gabriel, Grandfather Stayton's oldest son, died Sept. 8, 1875 and two months later, on Nov. 3, 1875, Grandfather Stayton died at the age of 57 yrs. They are buried in the old Grier Cemetery. After his death, his wife, Selecta Jane Gardner, the first teacher at the school, found among Gabriel's papers the following verse that he had written:

*Nearby, Father, you and I  
In peace will slumber and rest*

*The raging storms howling by  
We lean on Jesus' breast.*

**1876** - My father, A.D. Gardner, came to Stayton to learn the Drug business of Dr. McCauley.

**1878** - The Masonic and Odd Fellow's lodges organized where? On the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Grist Mill.

**1879** - My father, A.D. Gardner and my mother, Minnie Schneider, were married at my mother's home above Mehama. Rev. Wm. Jeter married them. The Infare [housewarming] Dinner was across the Santiam in Fox Valley at the Gardner home.

The one room school house still served the community for educational and religious purposes.

A.D. Gardner Druggist and Post Master. There were now 2 Dr. McCauley & Dr. Kitchen. Nathan Young was still Miller at the Grist Mill. There were 3 General Stores, Hobson and Whitney, J.M. Jones and W.E. Price. A Photographer, Geo. Sanford. A.J. Richardson had a hotel. There was a rawhide Chair Factory operated by Dan Neff & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Jim Davie had a Butcher Shop. There was W.H Powell & David Hoeye's Wagon & Furniture. There was a Livery Stable at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Florence St. and always at least one Saloon. A Blacksmith Shop was run by C.R. Bonham. A Carding Machine was operated by Drury Erastus Stayton, son of Grandfather Stayton. The Saw Mill was operated by John Shaw and Tom Sims.

**1880** - M. E. Church organized in the School House.

**1881** - Christian Church was built.

**1886** - The Baptist Church was built.

**1895** - The M.E. Church was built.

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## **61**

### **From Aunt Nell**

Agnus Nunchick married Marion Thomas. Aunt Nell wore Aunt Jane's red and white Scotch shawl when she went to the old or first school. She walked to school with Aunt Jane and Minnie Miller. Aunt Jane wore a calico dress & muslin petticoat. Minnie Miller had a petticoat that rattled when she walked. Aunt Nell resolved when she grew up she would wear skirts that rattled like Minnie Miller's.

Mr. McDaniel lived in the chinamens house just across the ditch north of their home in Stayton. Mr. McDaniel drank and rode a mule. When Mose Stayton moved out on the farm McDaniel rented Moses' home here in town but never paid the rent. He had several children. Emma, Birt and a boy, that Nells remembers. There was gossip about Mrs. McDaniels & the merchant Mr. Jones & also one of Mrs. McDaniels girls.

Said Nell when Dad was a young man he went to see Lizzie Jones. When he got to her home he found 5 other boys there. He went back home. Lizzie Jones must have been very popular.

Mother hoed strawberries. Started flowing. almost lost Cliff. Dad took a hack load of strawberries to Salem. could not sell them. He only ask 50 cents a crate.

During the cold winter of 1861 Grandma Henline lived on in the Hills. She had a pet calf. She kept the calf alive by feeding it Buiscuts from their table. This calf was the only one of their cattle that lived thru that winter.

Katie Goodpasture lived across from Grandma Jeter's farm. A tall fir tree in their yard was struck by lightening.

Grandma Sanford had a goiter. Grandpa Sanford had a saw mill. They did not have pennies in those days. My father, A.D. Gardner had the Post Office. Grandpa Sanford a hard shell Baptist - bought stamps to use to make the exact change.

## **62**

Some Chinamen lived in a shack up on the ditch near Moses Stayton place here in town (now Herold's place). They ate water mellon got the dysentery. Came to the Drug Store for medicine. Papa gave them Dover powders

(contains Opium & Epacac) to quiet. followed by Blue Mass (Blue Mass - similar to Calomel this was to move the bowels. So successful was his remedy the Chinamen called him "The Sh\_\_ Doctor."

Papa saved Dr. Kitchen's life with his famous suppositories with opium add to the suppositories. Papa made his own suppositories. I remember watching him mix them & roll them. The old gentleman Cusick called them "tinder shot pills."

Sparacism (can't find this word in the dictionary). think it was a spasm. Mr. Wiley (Richardson son-in-law) came to the drug store in the middle of the night. I thought his little boy was dying. Papa gave him or made him some of his suppositories with opium, he inserted in the colon and hot pack applied. He recovered.

Only case of malaria with in 15 or 25 miles of Stayton was the Starr family, above Hatchery – caused by dead matter in the drinking water. Remedy for malaria Blue Mass. 2 doses for 2 days. Now 7 day malaria not so severe as every day. When you have malaria you have chills. So 10 or 12 hrs before an attack take Quinine until your ears roar.

La Grippe – 40 days & 40 nights – never took off my clothes – Papa remedy take a hot bath go to bed roll up in virgin wool blankets – take a compound cathartic, never lost a case.

To make measles break out. Tea from sheep turds. Pearl was very sick – the measles just would not break out. So she had to drink a cup of hot sheep turd tea. Charlie (Daddy) laughed – then his father made him drink a hot cup of sheep turd tea. Charlie waited - one morning when no one was in the kitchen he put a handful of sheep turds in the coffee pot. After breakfast Charlie laughed at his Dad – Charlie got a licking.

### 63

Pioneer lawn mower – Old cow – I am told the saddle horse clipped the lawn closer. Spider web applied to cut will stop bleedings. Remedy for sore throat – sure cure – fat bacon sewed into old woolen sock – sprinkle bacon with black pepper – fasten around neck. Used scouring brick to polish steel knives & forks – Grandma Thomas did it after every meal.

Privett boy had diptheria during the epidemic. Papa sat up with him one night – he disinfected the room with a shovel of red hot coals over which he sprinkled one pound of brown sugar. The boy took a turn for the best. He recovered.

The King family had Typhoid fever – Papa tested their well water. Their animals came to the well to drink. Sow bugs were thick. The water was not fit for a hog.

Tea made from the bark of Swamp willow will cure Dysentery. Papa cured himself & others once when he was staying at Marion Taylors.

Grandma Gardner – two remedies Indian Root Pills and Turpentine. Papa said she rubbed on so much turpentine she destroyed all the red corpuscles in her blood. Turpentine is Aunt Nells cure-all.

Alder Ooze [sap] a powerful astringent.

Oak Ooze – good for sprains – soak injured part in ooze made from boiling the inside bark of the oak tree.

Cure for boils – Mr. Porter had boils. Drs. could not cure him. Papa prescribed for him – remedy take tincture of iron – so many drops 3 times a day & chloride of potassiam tablets – Eat no pork, eat beef, eggs and milk – get plenty of rest and take Epon Salts to physic the blood – to remove the cause. Mr. Porter was completely cured. Before papa prescribed for him, he was contemptling suicide. He was so miserable.

### 64

**John Thomas**

When John & Charles Thomas first came to Oregon they lived a while in Sublimity. Hobson owned a General Store. Grandma Hobson would melt the rancid butter to make into soap. The Thomas' lived just in back of Hobson's Store. Grandma Hobson would melt the rancid butter on Thomas' stove. Often the butter was wrapped in old rags. So Sarah Elizabeth Ann well remembers Daddy (Charlie) went to the Barber Shop for a shave. Forrest Mack was drunk – Forrest Mack lathered Daddy 3 times and shaved him 3 times.

Once he went to Lafe Thomas' Barber shop – Lafe was drunk. He lathered Daddy's face then got his razor and laying his head on Daddy's shoulder, razor in out-stretch hand near Daddy's neck – enough to make the cold sweat on any one.

Dr. Dozler made Daddy's dentures – full upper & lower set. Daddy went down for his first fitting. Dozler was drunk – He tried to fit a partial plate. It would not work. Said Daddy, “Dr. I will come back on an other day.”

It was said of Lane Cramer “He got up with the sun but before he cold turn around the sun set.” He was the one to collect money for the M. E. preacher. Mr. Rev. Baglesly – who lived at Mehama wrote my father that he just had to have some money. He had written Bro. Cramer but had received no reply “Please Mr. Gardner, give him a little push in this matter.”

## 65

### From Aunt Nell

Thorp children

Jeff

Price – joined the christian church baptised said “I went in a dry sinner came up a wet sinner.”

John – served a term in the pen.

Frank – John & Frank lived in Eastern Oregon

Mrs. Sarah Stanton – when her little girl Ida died we had a very heavy snow – They buried her in the snow until the snow melted – so they could dig her grave.

Mrs. Mary Davie

Mrs. Nettie Cox

Mrs. Martha Hunt – died of T.V. Her children Ellen, Owen. They had Indian blood from father side. Nettie Thorp & Aunt Jane were chums.

It was Jeff Thorp who told Daddy when he was a boy & had a calf to sell - “Charlie here is a bit of good advice if you have some thing to sell Ask more than you expect to get – you may get it if not – you can always come down to what you really think the annimal is worth.” Jeff was a sort of a cattle buyer – he bought – swapped and sold cattle.

Later Charlie raised a calf his Grandfather gave him – Jeff Thorp stopped one day ask Charlie how much he would take for the calf – Charlie remembered what Jeff Thorp had told him so he ask several dollars more than he expected to get. Jeff bit – he pay Charlie just what he ask – More than he expected to get.

Said Nell “ My Great Grandmother lived to be 103 years old – She lived with her son David. Nell said “I have my Grandfather Stayton's Dr. Gunn Doctor Book.”

Ernst Cole – was the son of Dr. Cole.

## 66

1857 – Salem Ditch dug

Winter – The big flood caused by a warm spell melting the snow in the Mts. Followed by a very severe 1861 and 62 winter. heavy snows. The pioneers lost most of their cattle – Grandma Henline kept one calf alive by her biscuits, with this calf the only one of their cattle that lived thru that winter.

1868 - C.W. & J.W. Thomas Cabnet Shop – coffins, furniture, raw hide chairs

Alex Clark and Brother Cyrus bought Sash and Door factory G.W. Cusick's factory  
 1874 – W.H. Powell and Hoeye Wagon and Furniture  
 1875 & 6 – Flour Mill built  
 1880 – the river left the Grove – High water  
 1884 – Lee Brown and Sons  
 1886 – Veal Joe Miller and Ed Neff bought Chair Factory of Veal  
 1891 – A.D. Gardner rebuilt Flour mill – changed it into Roller mill  
 1894 or 97 – A.L. Shreeve Electric Light  
 1897 – J.A. Shaw and Sims Saw Mill  
 1905 – Stayton Woolen Mill  
 1906 – Excelsior Mill  
 1916 – A.D. Gardner and John Sandner Water Power Co.  
 1919 – A.D. Gardner bought John Sandner's share of Ditch  
 1920 – Henry Mutchler Blacksmith  
 1920 - sold Excelsior Mill  
 abt. 1923 – Downing and Son Chair Factory  
 1930 – Oregon Flax Mill burnt  
 1931 – Mt. States plant destroyed by fire  
 1915 Sept – C.E. Taylor bought Stayton Electric Light Co.  
 1919 – Harry Rowe – Stayton Light and Power Co. - He later owned a jewelry store, hiring out repair work.  
 1924 July 31 – Mt. States Power Co. took over

## 67

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| J.P. Davie came to Stayton                                 | 1876                  |
| Aunt Fankie and Dan Neff came to Stayton                   | 1873                  |
| Wiles came to Stayton                                      | 1881                  |
| W.H. Cooper came to Stayton                                | 1882                  |
| Rev. Wm Jeter & A.J. Hunsaker organized the Baptist Church | 1872                  |
| Lone Oak Cemetery  | 1888                  |
| Big flood  | 1862                  |
| Leigh came to Stayton about                                | 1875                  |
| Nathan Young came to Stayton                               | 1876 from Minnisota   |
| Baptist Church built                                       | 1886                  |
| Jones and Saits Camp meeting                               | 1886 In the City Park |
| F.F. Foster came to Stayton                                | 1886                  |
| Lee Brown moved to Stayton                                 | 1884                  |

1886 Joe Miller lived in – Susie Kearns  
 House in the fall built house on 5<sup>th</sup> St.

1886 Elias Jeter built house on 5<sup>th</sup> St.

1887 or 8 Mehama bridge was built

Oct. 16, 1883 S.A. Jones came to Stayton Miller had 3 run of buers

1887 V.G. Haag came to Stayton

1883 Uriah Whitney & Hobson traded Mill for 640 A farm Jones'

1886 F.F. Foster came to Stayton

Mr. & Mrs. Leigh came to Stayton about 1875 Mrs. Leigh was a sister of Dan Neff also related to Mr. Shepard.  
 After Mr. Leigh's death she married John Grier. She had one son  
 round 1888 Stayton bridge over Santiam was built

First cement pavement in Stayton was the walk from a wooden side walk to Hill Top house – I remember how proud papa was of that walk & how proud I was when I came home from school in Salem and saw it for the first time.

Thurston Thomas used to call dances here in Stayton, in the early days.

## 68

Aunt Anna Stayton said Gabriel Stayton was a very tall man, very fine looking but very thin. Several of the Stayton boys were bald quite young but not Gabriel or Drury. Grandfather had beautiful hair. Neither bald nor grey. The Stayton's were the proudest family I ever knew and had nothing to be proud of either.

Dr. Kitchen rode a horse, when he came home covered with mud he rode his horse into ditch to wash him off, then break off fir limb – wade into mud puddle and wash off his high top gum boots.

#### This from my Mother.

One day father brought home, in his coat pocket, a small brown dog we called her Minnow – later she had 9 puppies. We kept them all – Books were very scarce. Of evenings Father would read to us. Some times we would have spelling Bees. The only doll we ever had was a rag doll that Mother made. We quarreled over it. Finally Mother threw it in the fire place and burned it up.

A Dunkard [baptism by immersion] preacher often came to visit through the neighborhood. He rode a donkey. He told my brother Irvine “Little streams jump over” “Big streams wade over” He came to a stream & attempted to jump over – the donkey did not make it – Dunkard preacher was thrown into the steam – He came out soaking wet. He said to Irvine “Say nothing and it makes nothing out.” Mother added “Irvine had to say.”

When Grandpa Schneider was plowing – he would send Mother to the house for coals to light his pipe – he would say “Mine [Minnie] go fetch some coals to light my pipe.” Matches were scarce in those days. Only block matches [matches made from a block of wood and left attached?] and you had to go to Salem to get them. It took the best of 3 days to go to Salem shopping and return home.

#### **69**

Stayton began digging the ditch in 1866. Dug sight for Mill, Gabriel started building mill. Moses started digging ditch, there was a slough from the river to where the woolen mill now stands. Started ditch at Saw Mill dug up to where the Woolen Mill now stands, ditch 2 or 3 ft. wide then turned in water & sluiced it out. They dug the ditch with shovels & wheelborrows. When my father was 11 yrs. old he hauled tan bark to Salem. He camped in Salem near what is now the woolen mill at the Flax Mill. The flax seed was ground on a stone something like a Bur Stone horse – cement basin turned by horse power. After crushing they pressed out the oil & boiled it down.

Uncle Wess was a good chopper. I sat down to watch him chop (said my father) He chopped twice in exactly the same place. Going deeper the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. So he would cut in 2 chops what it would take me 3 chops cut.

My father bought the two lots on which he built his 2<sup>nd</sup> Drug Store 3<sup>rd</sup> & Water St. of Mr. Cummings of Salem – It was a part of the Original Stayton owned by D.S. Stayton. My father thinks he took Mr. Cu\_\_\_ the lots on a mortgage. On these lots was the fir stump, once Mr. Ben Kimsey's Black Smith Shop. A Black Smith shop was on the lots when he bought them, John Thomas did the finishing work on the inside of the Drug Store. John lived in Stayton after Charles left. He also came back to work after he moved to his farm.

#### **70**

Aunt Nell likes to go to the cemetery early in the morning, because then the birds call. Nell remembers Uncle Tom Stayton singing, of an evening, sitting by their fire place.

*Go home, Go home, you old bachlor  
And smoke your long stemmed pipe  
I'd rather live single for ever and ever  
Than be an old bachlor's wife.*

Nell remembers when she was a very little girl she went to a picnic in the grove. Rosie Ward's father had died less than one year before. Rosi Ward Sang “ *Why did they dig Paw's grave so deep*” Nell still shudders when she recalls it. “Why did they ask a child to sing a song like that? and her own father less than one year in his



grave?"

Old man Solomon Cusick liked to shave with Paw's razor – said Nell – I can see him yet – standing before the mirror twisting his mouth, to get in corner of his mouth.

Dr. Caldwell, the dentist boarded with Aunt Frankie Inuner ? even after he married Dee Price – later they lived in the upstairs of A.Jones home (Susie Kearns) but at that time Uncle Joe and Aunt Mattie Miller lived downstairs while Dr. Caldwell boarded with Aunt Frankie Dolly (aunt Frankie child) fell in the well but she was rescued before she drowned.

When Nell was 16 yrs. old Nell worked for Mrs. Dr. Kitchen. Mrs. Kitchen had the La Grippe. Dr. slept up stairs first time Nell made his bed she came very nearly pulling his revalver out onto the floor with the sheet. He kept his medicines on the floor up stairs along the side of the stair steps. I imagine so he could reach them from the steps, Nell remembers, Dean (their adopted daughter) climbing up in the fruit room to get the bottle of liquor. Dr. Kitchen, had to have an operation, he was injured riding horse back – they could not have any children. Nell said I only had 2 dresses – calico dress.

**71**

**From my Mother** – continued from page 68

First time papa met my mother. Papa was around 11 yrs. old. He and his brother were looking for tan bark – and stopped at the Schreiner home – Mr. and Mrs. Schneider – were away – Aunt Tille and my mother were playing “Dress up.” They had made hoops from grape vines and were wearing them.

Mother did not like the Blue Jays. Reason – they had cut their wheat with a sickle and stored it in the loft of their barn the barn loft was open at both ends. The blue jays would fly to the barn loft & pull out a stock of wheat and fly away. Mother said as far as you could see was a string of blue jays both coming and going. Grandma Gardner told me what a pest the blue jays used to be – and how she hated them too.

Rev. Wm. Jeter married me, said Mother, at my home above Mehama – a fine old man.

My Mother said when she came to Stayton 1879 McDaniels lived on the Hollister place – It was a year or so later that the Hollisters came.

My Mother told me when she was a little girl in Iowa she used to wash their old rags to sell to the Rag man who came around ever so often buying “old rags.”

**72**

**From Aunt Nell**

Emma Hoey bought a wedding dress but something went wrong. She did not get Irvine Schneider the jeweler. Aunt Nell borrowed \$1.50 from Grandma Thomas to buy the material for her graduation dress. Aunt Mattie gave her some old silk lace to trim her dress. Grandpa Stayton's Banjo. A traveling troupe went up past our home place. They either lost or sold this banjo to Gova. Gova left it at our place – while Mother was getting breakfast Dad would play and sing to the babies one favorite “*Little birdie in the tree come and sing a song to me.*”

During the years McClary taught school we did not go to school – reason McClary was an infidel. Nell started school in 1879. It was just a one roomed school house. W.R. Privett was her teacher – Later an other room was added – her last teacher in the old school house was Graham, a canadian, he walked with his hands behind his back – to make him walk erect. She went to a strawberry social in the old school house. Mr. Graham ask her to eat with him – Said Nell, “I refused.” Wasn't I dumb.

Nell's first Christmas tree was in the old school house - first year after the addition. The tree was in the new addition. Geo. Cusick was Santa – Cora Cooper distributed the gifts. Geo. Sanford got a chamber in a hat box. Grandma Thomas gave Nell & Allie material for red dresses. Jimmie & Giles each received a package of “prize

candy” each containing a ring. Said Giles rings are for girls so Nell & Allie got the rings. Moses, Nells father gave Emma a silver glass ball. Jane a green glass ball.

Uncle Will Jeter preached 14 yrs. received no salary. He gave the timber to build the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Stayton. Joe Miller hauled the logs to the saw mill. Aunt Nell said “The Joe Miller Aunt Mattie was tied too” (married )

Mr. Graham graded the Stayton school.

**73**

**From Nell**

Said Nell, “I remember Grandma Hunt. She tried to teach me a Bible verse Eva Williams taught me,

*“I had a little doll  
Her name was Rose  
She had a pink nose”*

Sorry but I don't remember the rest but I don't remember any of the Bible verse.

Nell remembers these young men sat in the North East corner of the Old School house. It was her first year in school 5 yrs. old. Mr. Privett teacher, he had a club foot so Nell would go to his chair and stand by his side while he taught her her ABC's. These were the 5 young men in the North East corner of the room. Lafette [Lafayette] Stayton, Frank Glover, Charlie Swank, Will Siegmund and Fay Wrightman. (Frank Fay)

Aunt Emma was very ill – Dad took us to Grandma Miller (Old Dutch Miller, later Gehlen place) to stay all night promised us a doll if we would be good – We never got the doll. We slept on the floor by the side of Grandma Miller's bed.

When Ella Burson had her baby out of wedlock, Ella Thomas took Nell with her to see the baby.

Nell remembers the beautiful paisley shawl Mrs. Nathan Young wore – folded 3 corner  $\Delta$  the tip almost touched the bottom of her floor length skirt. By the way when Nell or my father speak of Grandma & Grandpa Young they mean Mr. Nathan Young & his wife. The Young children buried the little duck & chickens that died and put flowers on their graves.

When Charles Thomas lived in log house, in Stayton they did their washing down on bank of Salem ditch – heating water over bon fire in a great big iron kettle.

Nell said the first layer cake I remember was made by Aunt Tee Jeter. It was Mother's birthday. Aunt Tee baked a layer cake put it together & iced it with yellow icing. Aunt Tee, Aunt Anna, Aunt Frankie Geff and Mrs. Kitchen came & spent the after noon with Mother.

**74**

Williams would go to Sublimity shopping, get drunk put his two little girls (Ella and Lois) in the wagon – climb in – turn the horses loose – lie down in back of wagon – the faithful team would take them straight home.

I have often seen him dead drunk – finally manage to climb onto to his bay mare and clinging to the horn of the saddle, the horse would start home from the front poarch of the Drug Store. I would watch him out of sight – once he fell off his horse. Next morning some one of the family started out to hunt him – they found him in a dry ditch by the side of the road his faithful horse standing guard. Some times he was to drunk to get out of town. The town hitching post was near our barn. Papa always put the horse in the barn and feed her. Daddy Charlie was driving the flour wagon to Salem – coming home one afternoon on the treacherous reform school hill a wagon passed him – no driver – In the back on some hay lay Mr. Williams. Yes his faithful team got him

home safely again.

Moses Stayton hauled freight for Hobson's Store in Sublimity. It took about 5 days to go to Portland & return on one of his trips he bought the lamp (Aunt Nell has) and one gallon of coal oil – the coal oil cost \$2.50 per gallon. The lamp and gallon coal oil came around Cape Horn. It was a gift for his mother.

Aunt Nell remembers eating parched wheat at Mrs. Nathan Youngs house – My but we thought it was good.

Moses ran away

“Mosie” ran away – got lost in the cornfield on the other side of the corn field a colored woman saw the corn \_\_\_\_\_ went out to investigate – found a little boy. Ask his name he said “mosie” a neighbor lady recognized him – The colored woman took him home.

## 75

### Pastime

Gather to gather to sew; sew carpet rags – a party

Gather to gather to snip goose berries – a party

Gather to gather for a candy pull – a party

Quilting Party

Dances

Knitting socks and stockings by the light of the fire place.

This from Mrs. Noble – When the butter seemingly would not come – when churning in an old fashioned churn

Grandma taught me to say

*“Come, butter come. Come, butter come!*

*There's a man a standing at the gate*

*Waiting for a hot Johnny Cake.*

*Come, butter come”*

You had to save your own vegetable seeds or beg from your neighbor. Folk brought their garden seeds with them when they crossed the plains. That's how the Mission Rose came to Oregon – a lady carried just a slip all the way.

Wove their own blankets and clothes – spun their own yarn – kit their own socks and stocking. The black sheep were highly prized – from their wool you could make the Brown Linsey Blanket & cloth – did not need to color it.

Had to make your own soap. The ash hopper furnished the lye – beef suet – sheep tallow – or fat of any kind – rancid fat even rancid butter – furnished the fat – you could make either soft or solid soap – cut in bars I always liked best – It was the only kind my mother ever made – her soap was nice and white. Mrs. Robertson used to bring mother a can of bacon fryings and exchange it for a bar of soap, and Mother always gave her a bar. That was my mother. Once Mrs. Robertson came to borrow my Mothers Roaster and she went home with the roaster tucked under her arm – head out – you see she had hens but no Rooster. Mother always said “Mrs. Robertson is a dear old soul.”

## 76

On the other side of “Hill Top House” was Aunt Mary Hollenbeck. She was always asking for a crust of bread. One noon, just as we were ready to set down to dinner, here came Aunt Mary “Mrs. Gardner may I have a crust of bread.” Mother had just taken from the oven a big pan of Soda biscuits and that day they were soda biscuits – a golden yellow – either the milk was not sour enough or too much soda – Mother gave Aunt Mary a generous helping – next day here comes Aunt Mary for an other crust – saying “After eating your biscuits yesterday I did not have to take any soda all day long.”

Sarah Elizabeth Ann (Daddy's Mother) told me there was only one time in her life she had all her work done – not one thing that needed to be done. It was in the very early days of her married life. Said she, “I had even pieced every scrap of calico into a quilt block.”

77

Exodus 15:27 “And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, [springs] and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.” This could be said of Stayton. Here were trees, springs & also a river. What more could you ask for. Drury S. Stayton built his home by a spring.

2 springs just west of the Saw Mill

A spring above the grove

2 springs on Stephen Porter donation land claim

F.M. Taylor built his home by a spring also Donation land claim. Later Charles Thomas bought this place.

Many built their homes along the Salem Ditch and used that water – The Salem Ditch was dug 1857

Moses A. Stayton built near the Salem Ditch and they carried all their water from the ditch. Nell tells this story “Mother was heavy with child – She always insisted she carried Charlie 10 months. I was 4 yrs. old. Allie was 2. Mother gave me a little bucket flared bucket with a strainer – no doubt the milk bucket – told me to leave Allie on top of the bank I was to go down bank and get some water in the bucket – The water in the ditch was too low, but if I fell in Allie was to yell. Kid like I got to playing & straining the water out through the strainer – the bucket got away from me – I waded right out into the ditch after it & Allie began to yell – I don't remember Mother coming.

The Fays lived in the John Carter house corner 6<sup>th</sup> and Mrs. Kays carried all their water from the Salem Ditch in 5 gal. Cans. One when she came home with water she found her little girl Vinna had climbed up & hung herself – She was dead. Mr. Keys was a Saloon Keeper.

Church services were held in the School House. Said Nell, Mother always took our coal oil lamp to help light the room. Other women did the same.

Nell went to see Nellie Clark – just a tiny baby in Stupka house.

78

### From Nell

Nell remembers the beautiful red silk dress Lizzie Jones wore – Her father A. Miller – dress made from bolting silk colored red.

The Waterbury's lived in a house near Moses Stayton home here in Stayton, to the South, in back of Uriah Whitney's home. Mrs. Waterbury often went through their place with two little children. She would cross the head gates just west of the Grove [park] and go to see Mag Powell. After Mrs. Waterbury died some boys got into their woodshed tore open the feather bed she died on & scattered the feathers. Dean was 2 yrs. old when Dr. Kitchen adopted her.

One of the Snooks boy got into trouble – the officer was after him. Grandma Thorp hid him in her dirty clothes. One Snook boy ripped open the feather bed Mrs. Waterbury died on – it was in rafters over wood shed. Scattered feathers. Mrs. W. had T.B.

Silas Jones had 10 children – Teeny was the last Lizzie, Joseph, Bruce, Willie

His wife was a Larkins.

Newt & Laura Jones children Willie, Belle, Fred, Minnie and Frank. 1<sup>st</sup> lived in the Chinaman shack – later – Bell Crabtree house.

The china man's shack was across the Salem Ditch just north of Moses Stayton's home in Stayton. Nell's father told her he went by the shack one day the chinamen had just butchered a pig and they were drinking the blood. Maby that is what gave them the dysatory not water melon,

(W.B. Hatch) Nell says a Mr. Hatch is buried in the Campbell Cemetery. She thinks Hatch built the big Myers house – Grandpa Stayton might have sold part of his farm to Hatch. Grandma King Stayton received \$8,000.00

from her father's estate. She put (sunk) all of her estate in the saw mill. Grandpa King lost every thing in the Civil war.

Dr. Smith of Turner bought (Grandma Millers home just back of our home) for his widowed Sister, Mrs. Peebles. She and her children lived there. She was here in 1891.

79

### **From Nell**

Mrs. Linch & her youngest child were down at the ditch. Mrs. Linch was doing the family washing when the head gates went out, she ran with her child home to safety.

Sarah Elizabeth Annes remedy for ear ache, deafness and roaring in the ear, wine of opium (not laudnaum) one dram.

Oil of anise 10 drops.

Put into an oz. Bottle and fill with Oil of Sweet Almonds. Sweet Oil will do very well.

The Stayton family owned a horse called Henry – Grandpa Stayton (Drury S.) decided to ride him – He was very high lived, only the boys dared try to ride him – Said Moses – we warned Dad not to ride Henry – Henry would kill him. But Dad would not listen. So we saddled Henry – led him out into the lane Dad got on Henry – Henry went off down the lane, head down poking along.

Mrs. Doosing visited the plantation when a little girl. The Kitchen was was a seperate house. When she saw the darkie kneeding the bread she would not eat the bread. She thought her hands are dirty.

Grandma Stayton insisted she marked Drury – that was why he was a drunkard. When she ws carrng Drury she rode a horse to visit a friend. On the mantle in the friends living room was a flask of whiskey. She longed for a glass but because she was a preacher's wife she would not pertake.

This from Nell. Dad took Allie and I to have our pictures taken. Mother could not go. I think it must have been just before Charles was born. The tin type photographer had his tent stretched in Aunt Frankie Queener's yard – near new Post Office – Allie fell down. That is why she is pouting in the picture. O.H.P. Darby – Grandpa Darby's favorite hymn “How firm a Foundation.” He did not believe in an organ in the church – He left the Christian Church when they bought an organ. Said he it “bellows like a calf.” Geo. Thomas two favorite hymns “There's a light in the valley for me” and “Let me anchor beyond the Dark Sea” and a third “Shall we gather at the river.”

### **Page 80 missing**

81

*Myrtle Cline 2129 University Ave.*

*her grandparents sale*

*Sale Advertisement printed in the News – Herald Owenton, Ky Feb. 1849*

*Personal property sale by Rueben Tipton & Dorcas Tipton – Having sold my farm and I am leaving for Oregon territory by ox team will offer on March 1<sup>st</sup> 1849 all of my personal property to wit.*

*All of my ox – teams except two teams Buch & Be (?) Tom & Jerry: two milk cows – one gray mare and one colt. One pair of oxen and yoke: One baby yoke: Two ox-carts: 100 ft. of poplar weather boards: 1,500 10-foot fence rails: one 60 gallon soap kettle. 85 sugar troughs made of white ash timber 19 gallons maple syrup: two spinning wheels: 32 pounds mutton tallow: one large loom made by Jerry Wilson: 300 poles: 10 slip-hoops: 100 empty barrels: 300 barrels of Johnson-Miller whiskey seven years old: 20 gallon of apple brandy: one 40 gallon copper still: one dozen pot-hooks: two handle hooks: three scythes and cradles: one dozen wooden pitch forks: one-half interest in a tan-yard: one 32 caliber rifle: bullet mold and powder horn (rifle made by Ben Miller): 50 gallon of Soft soap: hams, bacon and lard: 40 gallons of Sorghum molasses: 6 head of Fox hounds all smooth mouthed but one.*

*At the same time I will sell my 6 negro slaves – 2 men – 35 and 50 years old: 2 boys, 12 and 18 years old. 2 Mulatto wenches 40 and 30 yrs. old*

*Will sell them all together to same party and will not separate. Terms of sale cash in hand or note to draw 4% interest with Bob McConnel as security. My home is 2 miles South of Versailles, Ky. On*

*McConnts Fery Pike Sale begins at 8 o'clock A.M.*

## 82

Soon after my father came to Stayton he was elected Sunday School Superintendent. That Summer they had a S.S. Picnic in a grove below where the big bridge crosses the Santiam River – on the river bank on what later was called Chas. Stowell's place. Aunt Selecta Jane Stayton (a widow) had a milliner store in papa Drug Store on Water St. Papa sold mama Minnie Schneider her hat for the picnic. There were 1,000 attended that picnic.

My father boarded with Grandma Stayton the first 6 months. Then he and his sister Selecta Jane kept house. One day Selecta sent him home to cook rice for dinner, by the time Selecta got home my father had every pot & pan full of rice. He did not know rice would swell so much when cooked.

The second School House was built in 1890 it cost \$33,000.00. A. Schellberg Sen. was the head carpenter 4 rooms originally.

The winter of 1861 & 1862 was the High water. That year papa often drank at the Spring on (now John Lau's place. Once belonged to Dr. Harden.

83

M.E. Church organized 1880

year

1880 G.W. Rook He baptised my Father & Mother by immersion, Portland, Ore.  
Presiding Elder of this District.

1881 W.H. Ryder  
C Alderson

1882 W.H. Hulbert

1883 J. Sweeney  
C Alderson  
Bagsley

1895 W.H. Myers

1896-97 E.H. Belknap

1897-98 I.L. Jones

1898 -1900 Edward Gittens

1900 -1902 W.S. Gordon

1902 -1903 A.J. Hollenbeck

1903 - 1906 C.E. Crandall

1906 - 1907 J.H. Foulter

1907 - 1909 G.O. Oliver

Church built in 1895 Trustee and Building Co.

A.D. Gardner and Henry Kien

## 84

### **Early Settlers in and around Stayton**

#### **From Nell Stayton**

Grandpa and Grandma Lane lived in a house on the hill above the Gehlen Farm house. A. Miller lived in the Gehlen house. A. Miller was Lane's son in law Lanes daughters were Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Kirkpatric, Mrs. Godfrey and Mrs. Miller.

Augustus Miller family – Rovie died of cancer married Snelling Perry dine Steel – Willie Steel her son Minnie single lived in Portland dress maker Oscar. Testiment in pocket, started to Sunday School – went to river got in boat – body found near Jefferson Marion. Boarded with Betty Stayton so he could finish term of school before going to Goose Lake.

A. Miller exchanged farms with Grandfather Boedigheimer whose farm was at Goose Lake. A. Miller while here lived on the Gehlen farm. At the edge of town on the road to Mehama. A. Miller did carpenter work – did

some building for Chas. Thomas – Barn – Spring house and kitchen to house on place.

Nell remembers going to Aunt Flora's wedding & standing on her tip toes so she could see the wedding cake. She thought “Oh what a pretty cake.” Aunt Nell wore a rain proof cape to school. At recess they used the cape for a roof to their play house wall of playhouse the old rail fence. Grandpa Henline would poke his cane through the rails and frighten them.

The Littles lived in Stayton when Mose lived in town, lived near their home – Mrs. Little was a Embler a sister to Esther Embler – After Mose moved onto farm – Mrs. Little died – Betty saw Mr. Little walk up the road carrying their baby going to take the baby to Embler's.

Marcus Shelly lived in the Hepburn house – near Woolen Mill Aggie and Myrle were his daughters *Claude & Frank the boys* Littles also lived there before Al Hepburn bought the place

Waterbury lived in I.J. Crabtree's house (across from the Woolen Mill) My brass kettle was Mrs. Waterbury

Privitt lived in a house where Mrs. Kleckers house is now

W.B. Hatch – owned Myers place - He is buried in the Grier [Campbell] grave yard

Tom Sims lived in Frankie Queener's home on 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

Veal lived in Aunt Mary Hollenbeck house just south of my home place

R.A. Davis married a Kiphart she died T.V. She let Nell iron the babies diaper. A real treat so Nell thought. She had a girl Phoeby & 2 boys one Eugene.

Lutz – Aden, Quincy, Malissa

## 86

### **This from Nell**

Aunt Nell went with Aunt Jane to Mrs. Price's buriel – Said Nell Aunt Jane and I walked over the hill to the Grier Cemetery. They did not have funerals in those days, I wore one of Aunt Emma's dresses she had when she was a little girl. What with pink flowers. I just remember asking Aunt Jane “Why Mrs. Price had her hands crossed that way that was the first dead person I remember seeing. Grandma made pokes (cloth bags) to keep seeds etc. in. I remember Grandma gave me a pink poke full of wheat to feed my hen – My hen was in a little coop of course soon as I got home I went out to feed my hen – She pecked my finger and made it bleed.

Susie Price and Layfette [Lafayette] Stayton were engaged to be married. Layfette was killed – Susie was never the same – went with Otto Schelburg – but did not marry him? Amilda Stayton went with Otto Schelburg – but married John Robertson? Otto Schelburg eventually married Obie Stayton (Aunt Annies youngest daughter) After Obie died Otto Schelburg married Dell Stayton.

### **This from Mother Gardner.**

Otto Schelburg had red hair. One morning – very early – when Mother went over to the barn lot to milk the cow she saw an effigy hanging on the water tank at the livery stable it was an effigy of Otto Schelburg the head of the effigy was covered with a part of the hide of a red heifer.

Nell said “I remember Allie & I stayed all night at Mrs. Youngs so we could go to the protracted meeting in the first school house – Mrs. Young took a coal oil light – Several ladies brought their coal oil lamps to light the school house – they set the lights in the windows.

Ben Kimsey had a daughter named Annie. They lived in the Nemeir house. Ella ware and Annie were girl hood friends.

### **This from Nell**

When we moved on the ranch we just had one room the kitchen. Jim Jeter moved us April 1881 – in his wagon pulled by a 2 horse team. Pearl was born in Stayton Jan. 1881. Later the front of the house was built - 1<sup>st</sup> just the frame work – walls, floor and roof – upstairs just boards laid on rafters – and a ladder up – no stairway – that winter a young man Geo. Minifer, old man Horner and Jim Berry stayed at our house. at night climbed the ladder to sleep. Nell is not certain but she thinks they were logging. The Stayton children Nell, Allie, & Charlie – got pink eye – Minifer got pink eye too “when Mother wanted to put flax seed poltices on his eyes – he would not let her, but lay on his bed up on the boards on the rafters and swore. That was the time Grandma Thomas brought us the the little flared tin bucket full of sugar cubes. My but they were good – just as good as candy – sugar was scarce – especially white sugar. Said Nell Dad took me with him to pick wild strawberries – I took this flared tin bucket. We walked down to Sanfords – near old red mill. Geo. Sanford had only boys – he offered to trade Dad one of his boys for me – I took it seriously.

Nell remembers going to Jim Jeters Infare dinner \* [given by bride-groom's parents] also Hattie and Susie Thomas' infare dinner when they married the Carters. Nell remembers going to a party at uncle John Thomas' farm home. They served Oyster Soup – made in the wash boiler.

Grandma Gardiner, in the winter, run the hotel in Scio - so the children could go to school, when the lodge etc had a feed she served Oyster Soup – made in a wash boiler – they were called Oyster Soup Suppers.

\*From the Nashua Telegraph, Monday, August 7, 1916:

An Infare Dinner

It Used to Be an Important Function For the Newly Wedded.

Were you ever invited to an infare dinner? You are familiar with the “house warming” that is as likely to take place in midsummer as any other season, and if you are a business man you cannot have escaped the demand for a floral tribute when some new firm has embarked in your particular line of trade or profession.

But the chances are that if you know anything definite about an infare dinner you are either too old to care about discussing it or you are of Scotch or North of England origin, unless of course, you happen to have spent most of your life in Indiana. In the latter event you learned all about a charming custom from your mother or grandmother.

In rural Indiana the old ceremonial has even yet not gone the way of most of the ceremonial practices of our ancestors, for it is still observed in a modified form. However, there is no sinister meaning attached to its omission, as was the case two generations ago.

In the days of our grandparents if the groom's mother failed to invite the bride to the infare dinner the day following the wedding it meant one thing and one thing only – that she was not to be regarded as a member of her husband's family. The dinner was usually a more elaborate affair than the wedding supper at the brides father's house the previous evening. It was served at high noon and included the entire bridal party, although in Scotland the bride was supposed to leave all her own kindred behind when she went to eat the dinner cooked by her mother-in-law. St. Louis Globe Democrat.

### **88**

Granite Ware

Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Inglis and Mrs Ratcliff said the first Granite ware they remember came with the Home Comfort range in the year 1906 – or thereabouts. It was a grey granite tea kettle.

List of metals used by man in order in which they were put to use: 1. copper 2. bronze 3. iron

### **This from Norma**

A lady told Norma “We always came to Grandma Gardner's to get – dried herbs for medical purposes. I remember Grandma had these dried herbs tied & hanging from the rafters in the loft above the kitchen there was dried Catnip, hoarhound, pepper mint, Damana\* Grandpa Gardner brought the seed home from California in 49 - “Gold rush Days” planted it in Fox Valley now can be found along river here in Stayton.

Grandma Gardner's Father raised race horses.

\* Damiana is a relatively small shrub that produces small, aromatic flowers. It blossoms in early to late summer and is followed by fruits that taste similar to figs. The shrub is said to have a strong spice-like odor somewhat like



chamomile, due to the essential oils present in the plant. The leaves have traditionally been made into a [tea](#) and an incense which was used by native people of Central and South America for its relaxing effects. Spanish missionaries first recorded that the Mexican Indians drank Damiana tea mixed with sugar for use as an aphrodisiac.

89

### **This from Norma**

Mrs. Anna Hobson told me my father, Abner D. Gardner ask to take her, then Anna Thomas, to a party that evening when he came for me he was carrying a lighted lantern he carried it all the way to the party and all the way back. I never went with him again.

**From Daddy** – This is a true story of Moses Alexander Stayton – when he went with a young lady – his father insisted on Moses carrying a lighted lantern. Moses started with the lantern, but before he got to the girls home he blew out the lantern & hid it in the brush – there he left it until he had taken the girl safely home – but he never forgot to light the lantern so he could find his way home alone.

Norma went to school to Miss House on the last day of school Miss House said “Come chick-chick-cluck” and she threw mixed candies on the floor, Said now - “We ran like a flock of chickens & gobbled up the candies.” Said Marcelle\* “Why that is nothing they still do that in France – When there is a wedding – always in the church – the Bride's maid stands at the top of the church steps and throws candy (almonds dipped in a sugar coating) on to the side walk for the guests to pick up – I did it when my sister was married.

Norma had a lady friend in Hawaii who used to say “ I will hot the pot and we will have a cup of tea.” She used a tea cozy to keep the pot hot.

When D was a small boy his boy friend came to play – they climbed the two plumb trees. D got down. His boy friend climbed to high, he could not get down. He started to cry. Mother went to find out what was the matter – said Mother “Don't cry I'll get you down. So she climbed up the plumb tree and got the boy down but discovered she was stuck in the plumb tree & could not get down. Norma had to get Papa – Papa had to get an other man to help him get Mother out of the plumb tree. Said Mother “When cows get to climbing trees they don't come down with ease.”

\*Marcelle Van Driesche of Stayton?

90

A Spring tonic – Cherry (wild) Chittam, Oregon Grape, Dogwood – boiled in water sweetened with sugar.

Mr. Mulkey crushed his leg – blood poison set in – it was going to have to be amputated. Dr. Kitchen took Dr. Hunter to Mehama with him to do the job. They found Mr. Mulkey playing cards. Said Dr. Kitchen “look here man you had better be praying & preparing to die than playing cards. Well Mr. Mulkey's leg was sawed off and he lived for many years walking on a peg leg.

Never paid a bill – they had Typhoid fever – called Dr. Kitchen. Dr. came to the Drug Store & said “Ab \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ have Typhoid fever you will never get a cent from them so I am going to prescribe Emulsion of turpentine. Said my father (Ab) they all got well. Emulsion of turpentine was a very inexpensive drug.

Peter Luthy only had one lung. My father put him on Hypo Phosphates & Port wine – sent him to the mountains – he lived many years.

My Father told me he lost \$20,000.00 in the Woolen Mill & \$20,000.00 in the Grist Mill. His loss in Grist Mill was during WW1.

Uncle Lee Brown thought Mr. Henline set fire to his mill, the night it burned down Mch 12, 1895: reason Mr. Brown , more than any one else, was responsible for the big bridg over the Santiam – doing away with Mr. Henline's ferry. Leaving him without a job.

Mrs. Sheppard, "This is the way I learned my A.B.Cs. & I went to a one roomed school house. The men built a long trough or box (sand tray) the length of the room filled it with sand and we learned to make the ABC's with the kernels of Indian corn." We would make an A with one color, a B with an other etc. it was lots of fun. One year there were 99 pupils all grades in that room.

91

## H. P

### **Darby family**

Martha married Humphrey

Mag married Geo. Powell

Frank married R. Sanford father of Mrs. Leslie

Jim a Baptist preacher's

Bill went to Willamette University – shot himself

Tom married Sarah Jeter

Sam father of George, Claude, Eva and Myrtle

### **Joseph Jones family**

Sophia married Ernest Jones (no relation)

Geanna (Gie) Married Billy Thomas

Ellen married Tollensby

Lizzie married Harmon

Lew M.E. Preacher's

Newt married

### **Sanford family**

George

Wallace Nell thinks his wife Pat first name

girl married Frank Darby

Adam Clack Clock ?

Katie his girl

John

Willie

92

### **From Nell**

Uncle John Thomas & Aunt Molly lived in what later was Grandpa Carter house, corner (north) of 6<sup>th</sup> St. Said Nell "Mother thought Aunt Molly could make such pretty wreaths of flowers to wear on our heads, when we rode on the Liberty Car 4<sup>th</sup> of July. So we came to Aunt Molly's while Aunt Molly was making the wreaths Allie sat down in a pan of water. Oh dear- what a job to get Allie's white dress dry & pressed before the parade started.

There was a program in the Christian Church Mrs. Bonham, dressed in a black dress – recited "Curfew must not ring tonight." Rev. Cooper waltzed across the stage – the folks thought what a disgrace waltzing in a church.

Leon (Staab) decoration day would go with Uncle Charlie Thomas, Leon's Grandfather, to the Grier Cemetery (Campbell) with rocks to mark the graves.

Aunt Nell remembers an Oyster Soup party at Uncle John Thomas' out on the farm – Oyster Soup made in the wash boiler.

After Sarah Elizabeth Ann wedding she ask Mosses – when he was in Salem – Irons so she could iron. He brought home just one. "Oh Moses how can I do an ironing with only one iron." Said Nell "Mother was really peeved."

Nell Grey lived at Dr. McCauley's – She & Aunt Flora were friends.

Aunt Matties wedding dress – light grey hemmed in figerty silk – Sarah Elizabeth Ann's wedding dress light grey trimmed in black silk fringe.

It rained hard on Aunt Matties wedding day “The bride will shed as many tears as the rain drops that fall.”

Drury told Moses “Anna is a good woman.” It was a comfort to Dad, said Nell for he felt that Drury had forgiven Anna. This was shortly before he died.

93

### From Nell

Moses Alexander Stayton was grubbing out on the ranch – ran out of tobacco – He chewed plug cut – stopped grubbing – walked all the way to town to buy plug cut tobacco – took a chew walked back to the ranch and back to his grubbing. Got to thinking was so disgusted with himself for letting tobacco get the best of him he took his plug of tobacco & threw it just as far as he could throw it. Making a good resolution went back to his grubbing – but by & by he longed for an other chew. Stopped grubbing – went in search of the plug of tobacco he threw away. Though he spent a long time looking for it he never found it.

My Grandma Rachel Stayton wore red flannel underwear – She stayed with us one winter – She always did her own washing she would put the tub on the floor & sit on a chair & wash her clothes – She spent her time smoking a pipe and knitting soxs. She would stay up until she finished a pair of soxs every day.

She often help we girls (Nell & Allie) with the supper dishes – Mother always made graham mush in the old iron kettle for our supper – the mush would stick to the kettle Grandma Rachel would say “Just put water in the iron kettle & set it in the pantry to soak.” That sure made Mother peeved.

### 94

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Clothing         | Home spun  |
| Shoes            | Indian Moccasins – shoes home made barefoot in summertime  |
| Hats             | Women & children wore sun bonnets. Men – caps made from furs of animals  |
| Stockings        | Knit from home spun yarns  |
| Cheese           | Home made – Grandma Schneider made real cheese – So did Mrs. Jacob Seigmund.   |
| Flour            | Grandpa Schneider would put a sack of wheat on his donkey & get on & go to Hogum (Aumsville) to the mill to be ground into flour. It took most of the day to make the trip.          |
| Yeast            | Grandma made her own yeast and dried it into cakes (Grandma Schneider)   |
| Sugar            | Brown sugar  |
| Molasses         | Black Strap – in barrels   |
| Milk             | From your own cow or cows  |
| Butter           | Home made  |
| Cereal           | Mush made from Graham flour which you got at the Grist Mill – not at the General Store. Boiled wheat.  |
| Candles          | Home made from tallow – molded in candle mold furnished light.   |
| Matches          | Block matches. Coals in fireplace were covered at night. Mother told me once or several times she had to go to Mrs. Beringers at least a mile away to get coals to start their fire. |
| Washing Machine  | A wooden tub and wash board a big iron kettle, a bon fire to heat water in big iron kettle – down by the spring, river or ditch.   |
| Cooking Utensils | Made of iron, brass or tin   |

### 95

Meat                      Fish, clams, oysters, venison, Wild game or pork from hogs you raised.

Sometimes farmers butchered a calf.

Shortining Bear fat – Lard – Buffalo fat  
Baking Powder Did not have baking powder used soda & sour milk or sour yeast dough and soda also salt raising read. Pancakes, griddle cakes or flapjacks  
Fruit Wild blackberries – Huckleberries – Mountain also Valley huckleberries, wild strawberries – Thimble berries, Salal berries, Sarvas Berries.\*

\* A favorite way to keep fruit for winter was to dry it. I read that pioneer women made pies from the tender shoots of the field fern.

Vegetables From your garden – The General Store did not sell fresh vegetables, nor canned ones either. So vegetables in the winter came from the root house - Cabbage was made into Sour Krout. Pumpkins were dried, also green beans, of course there were dried beans from your garden, potatoes, onions, squash, hominy made from corn, also dried corn, corn cut from the cob & dried. very delicious. Then there were turnips, carrots, rutabegas and early in the Spring greens. Uncle Charlie Thomas always took a bucket and went down along the little creeks and gathered Dock\* for greens, Grandpa Schneider gathered Miner's Lettuce. Mother made wilted lettuce of it.

\*Sarvis berry, as pronounced in the Southern states, also known as the Service berry. Commonly known in the Northwest as Choke cherry.

## 96

To save Grandma Williams kept paper lighters on the mantle over the fireplace, by the candles, to light matches, the candles from the fire in fire place.  
Camas The Indians made bread from the bulbs of the Camas.  
Hand woven bed spreads were called Cover-Lids

night caps women wore night caps when they went to bed  
Kinni kinic The Indians smoked Kinni kinic for tobacco  
Soaps Homemade soap – Made in big iron kettles over a bon fire. Lye came from the Ash Hopper – A big barrel filled with ashes preferably Oak ashes. Water was poured over ashes. It drained through and dripped out – lye.  
Fat – tallow bacon fryings or any kind of fat even rancid butter etc. was used to make soap. Grandma Hobson, whose husband had a general Store in Sublimity used to use butter that they could not sell, She melted it down in Mrs. Chas. Thomas (Aunt Mary's) kitchen when the Thomas' lived in Sublimity.  
The Pioneers made both Soft and hrd soap. They even had to use it for taking a bath.

Log house Once I visited the Patterson's in Fox Valley in a log House. The cracks between the logs will filled with mud the inside walls papered with newspapers. There were several rooms – all very neat & clean. The dinner was delicious. I was just a little girl – all that I remember was at least a dozen different kinds of jams, jelly and preserves, after dinner Mr. Patterson served black berry wine homemade

## 97

### From Nell

Grandpa Stayton gave Dad 2 ½ acres it went back to the river as it was then on the East of property. The Salem ditch was on the North. Dad planted the orchard. Mother carried all her water from the Salem Ditch. Grandpa Stayton bought 3 evergreen black berries for \$2.00 each. He gave one to Dad (Moses), one to Sarah Cusick and told them just where to plant them & to keep them watered. He kept the other for himself.

Nell remembers Grandpa Thomas telling her he drove 40 miles from their farm in Missouri, to St. Joe (St. Joseph) to trade, he received 4 cts. a dozen for his eggs.

After Drury Smith Stayton & his son Gabriel died – Gova built a saw mill on McCulloch Mountain – he used the water wheel from his father saw mill, here in Stayton. Thomas Creek furnished the power. Thomas Creek fell over a cliff some 20 ft. high – on top of this cliff Gova built a dam, at the bottom of the cliff he built a pen stock for the water wheel. At evening he would shut the gate of the dam, by morning the dam would be full of water – then he would open the gate the water would fall on the wheel. The wheel would turn & furnish the power to the saw to saw the logs into lumber. Gova regulated the speed of the saw so he & his helper would have time to play a game of pedro – while the saw sawed thru the log. The game of pedro finished they would reset the saw and have an other game of pedro. This old water wheel is in the museam in Corvallis.

**98**

**This from my Father**

This happened in Stayton – Just following the Civil War

It was election time – The Republicans won. They were rejoicing over their victory. Jim Queener a stanch Democrat & a Southerner having drank to much to drown his sorry, spattered a shirt with red paint, put it on & walked down the middle of the muddy road right through the heart of the village. That was his way of calling the Republicans (Northerners) Bloody Shirts, Silas Jones a radical Republican knocked Jim Queener down, kicked him around in the mud & but for some one rescuing Queener he might have been badly injured. Later Jones ashamed of what he did, left town & went with Jim Church prospecting. An early heavy snow fell that year. Jones & Church got lost. both were badly frozen Church lost both legs to the knees, Jones lost one leg. The Masonic lodge, of which Jones was a member, took care of him & bought him a wooden limb. He always used a cane when he walked afterwards. Mr. Jones grateful for what the lodge did for him, gave the Masonic lodge the City Park – We always called it the Masonic Grove.

**This from Nell**

They came to Grandma Thomas' for old linen cloth to use for bandages. Linen was supposed to be better than cotton. Healing virtures. Often linen clothes were baked in the oven until a dark brown before putting it on the wound.

Jim Church walked on his padded knee caps. He drove a team of mules and handled freight. He often stopped at the Drug Store. He could climb up into the high spring wagon seats almost as well as a man with 2 legs.

**99**

Tink and Jerry – Livery team

**100**

F.M. Lehman  
author of these verses

There's no disappointment in heaven,  
No weariness sorrow or pain  
No hearts that are bleeding and broken,  
No song with a minor refrain.  
The clouds of our earthly horizon  
Will never appear in the sky,  
For all will be sunshine and gladness  
With never a sob nor a sigh

We'll never pay rent for our mansion  
The taxes will never come due  
Our garments will never row thread bear,

But always be fadeless and new;  
We'll never be hungry nor thirsty,  
Nor languish in poverty there.  
For all the rich bounties of heaven  
His sanctified children will share.

There'll never be crepe on the door knob,  
No funeral train in the sky  
No graves on the hillsides of glory,  
For there we shall never more die.  
The old will be young there forever,  
Transformed in a moment of time  
Immortal we'll stand in His likeness,  
The stars and the sun to outshine.

I'm bound for that beautiful city  
My Lord has prepared for his own  
Where all the redeemed of all ages  
Sing "Glory" around the white throne;  
Sometimes I grow homesick for heaven,  
And the glories I there shall behold.  
What a joy that will be when my Savior I see,  
In that beautiful city of gold!

## 101

### Methodist Ministers in Stayton

- 1880 Presiding Elder G.W. Rook, Baptised A.D. Gardner and his wife.  
1881 W.H. Ryder - first met in old school house  
Alderson After 1881 met in Christian Church  
1882 W.H. Hulbert  
1883 J.Sweeney Then met in Baptist Church until M. E. Church was built  
C. Anderson  
Spangler  
1892 Bagsley A.W.  
1895 W.H. Myers built the church  
1896 E.H. Bellnap  
1897 – 98 T.L. Jones  
1898 – 1900 Edward Gittens  
1900 – 02 W.S. Gordon  
1902 – 03 A.J. Hollingsworth  
1903 – 06 C.E. Crandell  
1906 – 07 J.H. Foulmer – big head  
1907 – 09 G.O. Oliver  
Reeves - 1<sup>st</sup> to live in old parsonage  
Guthery  
Old widower – Brazil nuts – pitcher pump  
Hocking  
Downs  
1915 Lockhart  
Penix  
Reese  
Cook  
Brown

Linn  
Krouse  
Wayne Wright  
D.Geo. Cole  
Ralph Kleen  
1942 Huckabee  
Bruce Graseclose  
1946 Cookingham  
1947 Pierre Smith  
Morangi  
Miss G.L. Wusson  
Abbot  
Maglone  
Shaw

### 102

When my father (A.D.) went into Portland to buy Christmas toys he bought Vera & me (Ethel) each a string of gold colored beads – I wore mine 3 strings up around neck. Vera would wear heres one string around her neck. That made her string of gold colored beads hang down a bit below here waist. Reason “I want to see my beads” said Vera. We went to the Baptist Church – Vera never could be still. So when, during the sermon, she got up she caught her long string of gold colored beads on the end of the seat and her beads flew all over the church. She did find a few but now she only had one string and a very short one, close up around her neck.

I remember Grandpa Kearnes, a tobacco chewer, brought his spit-toon to church. Well if he had to chew tobacco while the preacher preached it was much better to spit in his spit-toon than on the floor. He was a Aannbleite – a good old man.

### 103

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Stayton the men sat on the East side – The women on the West side. It was the same in the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church. There was a middle row of long pews and 2 shorter pews one on East side – one on West side.

The first time Vera wore her new Summer hat the wind blew it off her head & into the Salem Ditch. She never saw it again.

When any one died even if in the night time they tolled the church bell – A toll for every year. I used to always count the tolls.

Rev. Sweeney was a missionary to the Indians. He live in the parsonage by the church. Once in the middle of the night the bell began to toll. He got up to inquire who had died. It was an Indian who lived away out on the reservation. So he dressed and saddled his horse and rode out. Indians from all over the reservations were gathering for the funeral feast. But the sick Indian was still alive. Seems they thought the sick indian was going to die. So they thought they worn the tribe in plenty of time. Rev. Sweeney stayed until morn then rode back to the parsonage. As I remember the Indian did not die that time.

The winter of 1879 - 1880 was the winter of the Big Snow.

Stayton was laid out by the Solar Compass.

Norma went to Grandma Darby's to get suet from her fire place chimney to make tea to give to D for colic. When D was a tiny baby.

### 104

### **Some of my recollections**

Game of "Horse Shoes" was a favorite pastime. I remember there was a game – Just across the street to the East of my Father's Drug Store. Not only boys but men of all ages played.

When visiting my Grandma Gardner in Fox Valley I never missed watching the train go by – I loved to put pins on the track. If I crossed two I would have a pair of scissors after the train flattened them.

The winter of 1880 was the winter of the big snow. Mother told me they were snowed in. All the meat they could get was a big boney turkey – not fat but tough – There was only she & my father to eat this turkey – Mother never would have turkey after that. We always had roast chicken, I remember Mother wanted to roast a chicken – She did not have any light bread for the dressing. She gave me some money & told me to go up to Mrs. Richardson's Hotel to buy a loaf of home made light bread. Mrs. Richardson did not have any light bread she told me to go home & tell my mother "soda biscuits made good dressing" but my Mother would not use soda biscuits – So we had boiled chicken with dumplings.

Did you ever hear of rock candy? Hard candy strung on a string.

I was over on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Uncle Preston's log team ran away. In my excitement I ran into the Saloon, in back of the green screen that kept outsiders from looking in. That was my first and last time inside an old fashioned saloon.

### **105**

#### **This from Nell**

"My Grandma Rachel Stayton died on \_\_\_\_\_ above Lyons at the home of her son Gova. There were no telephones in those days. Poor mail service. Moses did not know that his Mother was ill and had died. She was to be buried in the Grier Cemetery by the side of her husband. When the funeral procession passed Grandpa Chas. Thomas' place on the way to the Grier Cemetery Uncle Giles hitched their team to the hack & drove down to tell Moses. Mom was with child – could not walk so far, so Giles took Mom in the hack – Dad took we children and we walked over the hill to Grier's Cemetery. Uncle Drury and his yellow dog arrived just as they were lowering the coffin into the grave. Uncle Drury was drunk and as he leaned over to look into the grave he almost fell in onto the coffin.

### **106**

#### **This from Maud Queener Wilson**

John Stayton came to Sublimity to visit Drury Smith Stayton they rented a house to live in come Sunday Drury, a preacher preached, John's wife washed on Sunday & when church was dismissed & folk left – there was John's wife's washing hanging dripping on the line.

Maud's father was Justice of Peace Riley Thomas & Mary Henline were the first couple he married.

Uncle Gova said to my Mother "What is that switch doing above that picture?" Mother said "That's to switch Maud with when she swears. She picks it up from the two Whitney girls Lilly & Lena. "Mrs. Whitney joined the Baptist Church & when she was baptised (in the Salem Ditch) Lilly & Lena cried, when ask why they were crying, they said, "Now we can't swear any more."

Aunt Mary Skiff told Maud "When ever Dr. Skiff came to see me Mother (Grandma Gardner) saw to it we could never be alone even when we went for a walk one of my sisters went along."

Siegert Brown is buried in one corner of our cemetery lot in the Campbell Cemetery. Grandpa Stayton was captain, crossing the plains & he rode a horse, Francis & Sarah rode horses. Saw Indians, rode back to warn the immigrants. It was only 3 miles from the Kings plantation to the Stayton plantation.

#### **Maude Queener Wilson's remembrance of Grandma Rachel**

She sang in her sleep. One morning mother said to Grandma "You sang How firm a foundation last night along



toward morning just before day light. I have never heard you sing it better.”

My father went into Portland he bought Grandma a black Satin bonnet with a big black plume and also a black chasmere shawl with fringe round the edge. Grandma on Sunday morning would scrub up until her face fairly shone – put on her bonnet with the pretty plume fold her shawl cata cornered and throw it over her shoulders and proudly walk down the aisle. My but we were proud of our Grandma Rachel – We thought she was the most handsome person in the church. How proud Dollie and I were of our Grandma. We loved to sit one on each of her. She was very set in her ways. She often would spin until 3 A.M. in the morning to finish her job she had planned to do before going to bed.

My Grandfather Drury S. Stayton was related to Queen Victoria.

Jehu G.F. Stayton (Uncle Gova) Grandma Rachel said Jehu was a wild one. Some one died he rode horse back to the funeral – Put Francis (Frankie) in front of himself on the horse & galloped to the funeral – Frankies long hair waving as they galloped along.

An other time he drove the carriage & held a tight line on the team, trotting the team any one knows you should hold a slack line when you are going to a funeral.

An other time at Grandma Rachel's house, in front of the fire place - All the children around him – he started cleaning his rifle, or gun – Grandma Rachel ask him not to do it, the gun might be loaded . said Jehu, Oh, it isn't loaded, when the gun went off, hiting the broom, by the fire place & setting it on fire. Said Grandma Rachel, “He was a wild one.”

§