

# Augustus Fanno Took First Beaverton Claim, Year 1847

SETTLER DEVELOPED LARGEST ONION PLOT IN STATE WITH SHIPMENTS THRU N. WEST

BY HERVEY S. ROBINSON

Seven years after Joe Meek and "Doc" Newell swam their animals across the Willamette river below the falls and climbed through rain and mud over the hills to North Plains to begin the settlement of present Washington county, Augustus Fanno came from Missouri to become the first settled in the Beaverton vicinity. Fanno, who had been a sailor in his early youth, had traveled extensively and finally settled down, as he then believed, in Missouri where he took up teaching as a vocation, married Martha Ferguson and became the father of a boy who was named Eugene. But Augustus was a restless soul and found it hard to tie himself down to the humdrum life of a school master. Missouri in the early 1840's was a gathering place for emigrants bound for the great West and soon he found himself in the westward moving throng. Eugene was four years old in 1846 when his parents brought him across the plains to Oregon. The journey was accomplished with no more than the usual difficulties. Arriving at The Dalles, Augustus helped the other members of the party fell the trees and whipsaw lumber with which they built heavy flat-bottomed barges to bring themselves and their

belongings down the Columbia river to the Willamette Valley. The used pitch from the trees they caulked the boats with which they descended to the upper Cascades. They portaged around the Cascades, floated their boats down the swift current, caught them again at the lower Cascades, patched them up, reloaded and went on down to the mouth of the Willamette. Then they poled and lined them up that stream to Oregon City where Fanno arrived with just fifty cents in his pocket. The family settled at Linn City across the Willamette from Oregon City. Shortly after their arrival Mrs. Fanno died in childbirth and she and her baby are buried at Linn City. In 1847, Augustus Fanno came to Washington County and took a donation land claim eight miles southwest of Portland on the trail from Oregon City to Tillamook Bay. The claim was about twelve miles from Oregon City on what is now called Fanno Creek. There was no roadway then and the traveler was guided by blazes on the south side of the trees. That was the way they marked the course—might be blazes on the north or west side, but you paid no attention to them. Only the ones on the south side marked the way to go. In 1849, Robert and Thomas

Denny came and took a claim next to Fanno's on the north. Robert was a single man when he came to Oregon, but Thomas was married and had a son named Fielding. With the Denney brothers was an unmarried sister, Rebecca Jane. The young widower at once sought the acquaintance of his fair neighbor, and before the year's end they were married and started to make a home and prosperity on that homestead claim. It is said that Augustus Fanno grew the first onions produced in Oregon. Be that as it may, Fanno developed the onion industry in the Beaverton country until his farm, later under the direction of two sons, was the largest onion producing plot in the state. Shipments were made to all northwest points and to Alaska. Six children were born there on the claim, according to Alonzo Fanno, in an interview with Fred Lockley in 1937. Augustus J. died in Portland October 19, 1923. Zantophine became Mrs. T. L. Morlock. Her daughter became Mrs. T. L. Morelock and was living on the old donation claim. Ziona married James D. Wilnot of Beaverton and was living on part of the old farm. Zarcada died at the age of sixteen. Altem died in childhood. Alonzo makes the list complete. All these children attended the McKay School about half a mile from Progress post-office on the Old Scholls Ferry Road and Tualatin Academy at Forest Grove. Alonzo states, "The house in which I was born is still standing (1937) and in good condition. Its cedar shingled roof is apparently as good as ever, though put there fifty years ago." Other early settlers on Fanno Creek were William J. Robinson, James McKay, James Davies, John and George Richardson, William Robbins, David Graham, John Hucklin and Thomas Stott. Samuel Stott settled on Beaverton creek at the present site of Beaverton in 1851. According to an old map of 1852, William Lockerman was northeast of him across one of the beaver sloughs which almost surrounded the place. Farther east along the road to Portland were Anthony W. Hart and William Pointer. West toward Lafayette were John Innis, James Reid and David Ellerson. A little farther south on the Oregon City-Hillsboro road were William H. Williams and P. L. Spencer. North and west of the Stott homestead were John H. Mellen, Edward Barton, Luke (or Lawrence) Hall, and William Hall. A little farther north in the next township were Josiah Hall, G. Woods, Edward Lennox, Lemuel A. Sparks, Dudley Busten, Lewis P. Day, Francis McGuire, George W. Jones, James McGill, James A. Flippins, Paul D. Shackleford and others. What stories of frontier life and adventure they could tell us if they were still alive. But they are gone and with them some interesting history of this locality which will never be told. Many, however, left accounts of their experiences in letters, diaries, newspaper stories and scrap books which will be valuable to the future historian. As yet, so far as we can learn, no one has attempted to collect and organize this material into a history of Washington county. A few years ago Roy L. Davidson, at that time connected with the Forest Grove News-Times, went about among the old timers collecting their stories for publication in the local newspapers and

thus much valuable material although in a form not readily accessible, for no one except historians and libraries save old newspapers. We are borrowing some of this material for use in this series. Perhaps some of the numerous descendants of the pioneers still have interesting historical material worthy of publication. If so let us hear from you. Help us preserve the story of old Washington County for young Washington County.

**SCENIC VACATION**  
Reporting a scenic vacation trip to Kadoka, South Dakota, Miss Florence Rice returned to Beaverton this week. While in Kadoka Miss Rice was maid of honor for a college friend. On her return trip Miss Rice was joined by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rice of Oak Ave., Beaverton, at Couer d'Alene, Idaho where they visited old friends. The return trip was made via Lewiston. An interesting highlight of the trip was the keen community interest displayed by the town of Kadoka (population 500) in the activity of the town baseball team. Business firms close their doors and everybody goes out to the ball park to support the club.

**WELCOME HOME—SALLY LOU**  
Sally Lou, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick M. Pulcifer of Beaverton, made her debut Friday, August 27, at Wilco Memorial Hospital. Mother and daughter are reported preparing to come home to Beaverton. The proud grandparents are Carl Christensen of 619 7th St., Beaverton and Mrs. Lucy Teller of Reedville.

**OVER NIGHT GUESTS**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Williams formerly of Sutherlin, were over night guests last week of the J. J. Bloomquist family. They were on their way to their new home in Wallace, Idaho, where Williams, who is employed in the Silver mines, has been transferred. Mrs. Bloomquist is Williams' sister.

**EATONVILLE, Wn. GUESTS**  
Mr. and Mrs. John Erickson and son of Eatonville, Wash. visited last week at the G. Wold and L. Clausen homes.

**VACATION OVER**  
Miss Hilda Jacobson has returned to work after a two week vacation spent at the home of her mother, Mrs. John Johnson on Hart Road.

**TWIN FALLS VISITOR**  
Mrs. Ella Hobbestad and three children of Chicago spent last week visiting at the home of Mrs. Laura Clausen.

## The Outlook From Cooper Mountain

**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
Cooper Mountain grade school will resume teaching activities next Tuesday, Sept. 7. Mrs. Onelta Doohar will preside over the fifth to eighth grades and Mrs. Heard will have the first four grades. Enrollment figures are expected to be large this year.

**ON VACATION**  
Clarence Satterlee, Connor Road, is at this time enjoying a ten day vacation from his work at the Terminal Company of Portland.

**VISITING OLD FRIENDS**  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Vinning, formerly of Connor Road and now of Portland spent a day last week here visiting old friends.

**ATTENDING CONVENTION**  
Harry Wold son of Mr. and Mrs. Gunlef Wold, Bany Road, is spending 10 days in Bremerton, Washington at the Junior Red Cross convention.

**TILLAMOOK VISITORS**  
Dan Brasmeier and his son Father Dominic, O.S.B. of Tillamook visited at the home of the F. J. Seidis August 27th on their return from San Francisco, Cal.

**CHICAGO VISITORS**  
Mrs. Ella Hobbestad and three children of Chicago spent last week visiting at the Gunlef Wold home.

## MILLS CITY GUESTS

Mrs. H. Schoff, her daughter, Mrs. Marion Schiff and Mrs. Schiff's sons, Don, James and Glen of Mills City, Montana were guests last week at the F. J. Seidl home.

## SWEDISH PICNIC

The Cooper Mt. community was well represented at the Swedish picnic held at Oaks Park on August 22nd.

## TACOMA WEEK END

Mrs. Laura Clausen spent last week end at Tacoma, Wash. attending the Norwegian convention.

## TRIP TO OKLAHOMA

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clayton are on a two week trip to Oklahoma.

## INJURED

Bobby Bye was injured last week when he was thrown from a horse.

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