

# Elam Young Never Founded Cedar Mill; Died Too Soon

EARLY HISTORIAN ERRED AND MISTAKE STILL PERSISTS TO CONFUSE FACTS OF SETTLEMENT

By Hervey S. Robinson

Any reader who has additional information on names, places or events covered by Mr. Robinson are invited to write the newspaper. In this way, a more complete historical series will be possible. Address letters to Hervey S. Robinson, % Beaverton Enterprise, Beaverton, Oregon.

(Continued from last week)

An error concerning the beginning of the settlement at Cedar Mill has been current for the past 25 years. This error of some early historian even found its way into the first edition of Lewis A. McArthur's Oregon Geographic Names. Mr. McArthur is a scholarly and careful historian and his work became the accepted authority on the subject, but in this instance he was misinformed. In the series of articles which began in the Oregon Historical Quarterly in December 1925, proceeding publication in book form in 1927, we find: "Cedar Mill, Washington County. This name was given by Elam Young to his sawmill in 1847 and has been retained ever since."

In the second edition (1944) the error was corrected but not before the workers of the Federal Writer's Project, WPA, had repeated it in their Oregon Guide Book (1940) which had a wide circulation and is frequently consulted by historians and writers. Hence it has appeared in a number of places since that time.

The facts are, as brought out in McArthur's revised work, "Dr. Elam Young, a well known Oregon pioneer came to Oregon in 1847. He was working in the Whitman sawmill at the time of the massacre of November 29, 1847. The Young family escaped with the exception of one son, James, who was killed. They arrived in Oregon City early in 1848 and soon thereafter settled on a claim about where the village of Orenco now stands, six miles northeast of Hillsboro and

about 2½ miles north of Reedville. There the father and mother spent the rest of their lives and upon this homestead Elam Young died, February 9, 1855.

It will be noted that Elam Young never lived at Cedar Mill and never operated a sawmill there or elsewhere.

The first resident upon the Cedar Mill site was apparently George W. Jones who located there in 1851 and filed upon a donation land claim. Jones had for neighbors, according to the plats of the first Federal Land Survey in 1852, Samuel Walter and F. J. Pearson on the east, Josiah, Lawrence and William Hall to the south, Francis McGuier and G. W. Woods on the west and James Flippen and J. B. Hall to the north.

In 1855 John Quincy Adams Young, Elam's son who had been 19 years old when he came to Oregon with his parents in 1847, married Elizabeth Constaole an orphan girl who had been living with relatives in the vicinity of his father's claim.

It was not until 1862, that J.Q.A. Young, bought a portion of the George W. Jones claim and built a log cabin near the falls of Cedar Creek. This location is about five miles east of the old Elam Young homestead and about three miles from present Beaverton. "Here," to quote his own words, J.Q.A. Young "purchased 280 acres of land and ran a sawmill for a few years and then sold it to W. R. Everson."

He named the place Cedar Mill and specialized in the cutting of cedar siding, shingles, shakes and other cedar products which were extensively used in buildings in Portland, which was then growing rapidly.

Mr. Young does not state that he built the mill on his property. It may have been there when he bought it. After selling the mill he built another house near the same site and kept store and post office in it for seven years.

He says, "I named the post office at Cedar Mill and an entire

village now stands on my original 280 acres."

J. Q. A. Young, like most Washington county pioneers was a staunch Christian, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He had been a member of a little Methodist congregation which met, sometimes in the homes of its members, and at other times in a building erected on the Edward Constable claim near the Elam Young homestead for community use, principally for church purposes, a building which was later moved to Hillsboro and became the original of the Methodist Church at that place.

After moving to Cedar Mill, Mr. Young founded and supported a Methodist church at that place. According to the Oregon Guide Book, the first church building was erected in 1865. "Its congregation," according to the same work, "had its beginning in 1852 when the settlers held services in their log-cabin homes."

The question arises, "Who were the settlers who began holding meetings in their homes in 1852, ten years before the Youngs came to Cedar Mill?" Is the reference to a congregation of the Jones, Hall and other families in the Cedar Creek vicinity or does it refer to the group about the old Elam Young home or to any of several congregations of the same type scattered about the country in those pioneer days? Almost every neighborhood had one.

A Methodist congregation began holding meetings in a log-cabin of Thomas Denny's claim on Fanno creek about 1852 and by 1857 had built a church at what is now the village of Progress. This building, which the builders named Ames Chapel was also used for a time by the McKay school before its second building was erected in 1864. Still another congregation was formed in 1850 in the home of Rev. Albert Kelly about where Glencullen is now.

The West Union Baptist Church

had such an organization as early as 1844, in the immediate vicinity of Elam Youngs home. They held their first meeting in the house of David T. Lennox. In 1853 the Baptists built their own church building, still standing, at West Union.

In early days when every family occupied a donation claim of 640 acres there could be no populous communities, a neighborhood could not well include more than four or five families. Other neighbors were at least a mile or two distant. Almost every one of these crossroads neighborhoods had a church organization of some kind and a family might go several miles to worship with a denomination of its own choice.

There are many descendants of the Hall, the Jones and the Young families still in this section of the country, intermarried among themselves and with later settlers. Most of the data for this article came from some of them and doubtless there are letters, documents and reminiscences in their possession which would throw additional light upon this interesting community.

If any of our readers have such material we would be delighted to see it. We do not claim infallibility and, if we are mistaken in any respect we welcome correction.

(Continued next week)

#### PARENTS FOR DINNER

Mr. and Mrs. McNicholas, of Farmington road, had her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Bailly, of Canby to Xmas dinner.

#### TWENTY-ONE GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Van Kleek, near Tigard entertained twenty-one with a Christmas dinner and party, at their home on the Kinton road.

#### HOLIDAY IN GRESHAM

Mrs. Sarah Walker and her daughter Virginia Chamberlain, were Christmas Day visitors, at the William Newcomer home in Gresham.

#### CANADA VACATION

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knepp, of Eighth St. and family enjoyed a weeks vacation, with relatives, in Victoria, B. C.

#### HOLIDAY OCCASION

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Benson and family were holiday visitors, at the home of Mrs. Benson's sister, in Portland.

#### FRIENDS IN NEWBERG

Fulton Bowman enjoyed Christmas Day, with friends in Newberg, Oregon.

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Sarti, 719 N. E. Canyon road, Beaverton, had as New Year's day guests, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Armstrong, Mrs. Nell Keebler, from Lebanon, Oregon, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Grigson, Portland.

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#### FEW DAYS AT DEPOE

The Misses Danae and Claire Livesay, of Greenway Drive, enjoyed a few days vacation, at Depoe Bay.

#### FRIDAY VISIT

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Anderson, spent Friday at the Edward Sheets home on Farmington road.

#### GRANTS PASS VISIT

Mrs. Lela Richey, of Second St., is visiting her son and family, at Grants Pass over the holidays.

#### APPENDIX RECOVERY

"Dick" Best, of Lombard St. is recovering from a recent appendix operation, at the Jones hospital, in Hillsboro.

#### HERE FROM METZGER

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schaffer have moved from Metzger to Sabin Ave. here.

#### SEE WORK EXEMPLIFIED

Mr. and Mrs. William Bollinger visited Hillsboro Rebekah Lodge, at Hillsboro recently to see the Rebekah degree exemplified.

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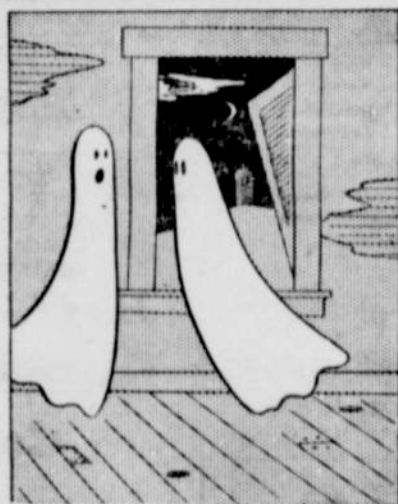
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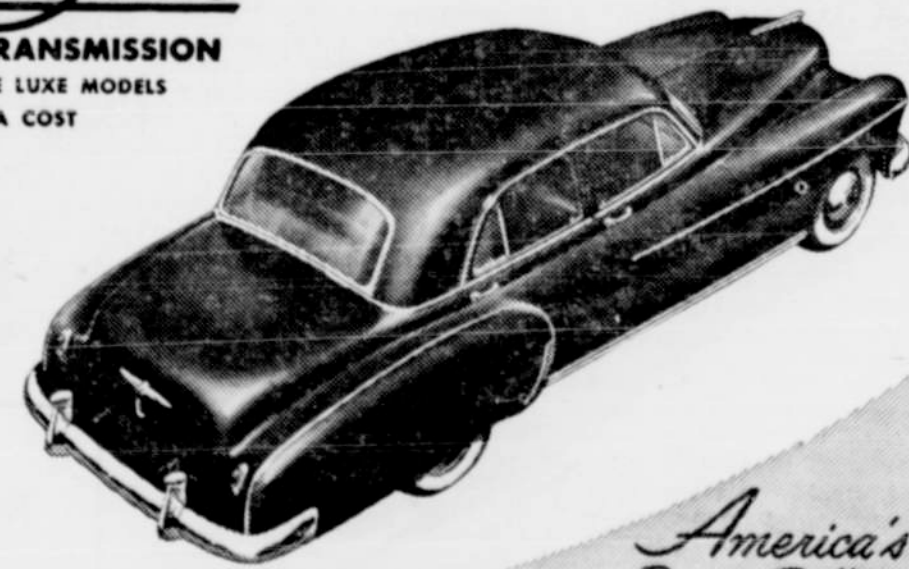
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