

A Pair of Silver Cuff Links

A Narrative of Pioneer Days in Kentucky
About An Ancestor of The Tillamook
Woman Who Wrote The Story

The story of two little silver cuff clasps from 1777 in Kentucky to their trip across the plains in 1851 to Oregon.

The little clasps are sterling silver slightly oval shaped with a violet engraved on each one and are slightly blackened as though seared by fire, and thereby hangs the following tale.

The earliest explorers of America found the region of Kentucky, then a part of Fincastle county, Virginia, practically deserted except for a few mound building and agricultural Indians. The ground was valuable for hunting. There were thick and dense forests in which game abounded in plenty. Powerful tribes had this region as their hunting ground. In fact, this country was so rich in hunting qualities that it was fiercely contested for between the various Indian tribes, and each tribe would slaughter any others found hunting there.

Daniel Boone made his first explorations into this country in 1769 and in 1774 the first settlement was founded called Harrodsburg and later called Boonesborough. The keen rivalry between the Indians over these hunting grounds developed into hatred of the whites who invaded the territory to make their homes and drive out the game. So intense was this feeling on the part of the Indians that they would stop short of nothing to wipe out their hated enemies. Massacre after massacre took place and the ground of Kentucky was soaked with the blood of pioneers.

White people in Kentucky became as much hunted as the game itself. For a pioneer to venture out alone into the woods was simply to toy with life, but the land was fertile and attractive to settlement. Irrepressible civilization crept westward and the murky woods of Kentucky were cleared away for the new settlements.

Gradually the territory was wrested from the possession of the Indians at the price of unnumbered lives of men, women and children. It was not until 1790 that the state was free from molestation.

The period in between was one that shrieks with bloody massacres, and it was in this period that the little clasps became the center of great interest.

Attracted by the glowing reports that came to him, of the fertility of the soil, the great great grandfather of the present writer emigrated with his wife and children to the pioneer woods of Kentucky. Arriving there they settled near one of the early settlements, and made their home on land cleared from the great forests. This was before the war of rebellion broke loose in its raging pandemonium of Indian warfare on the pioneer front. All then seemed safe and lovely, though caution had to be exercised at all times that one didn't wander forth into the forests and become the victim of a roving Indian.

The little family prospered and happiness reigned in the household until one day the father returned from the settlement, his brow was clouded and he spoke in whispers to his wife. The children felt the foreboding of trouble and soon the secret was revealed to them. Tidings of war were sweeping the country, but the frontiersmen of Kentucky were little interested in the affairs of the Atlantic coast.

The danger of troops and devastation from that source was not eminent to them. Their great fear was of the Indians, the dreaded Indians. Over the line and over the line went the British. The Indians were being enlisted against the Americans. Rumors and counter rumors came to the settlement of the Indians being armed and prepared for a great massacre of the Kentucky settlements. With the legal permission of the British there was no stopping the blood-thirsty natives in their desire for revenge against the whites who had invaded their hunting grounds.

The war came. Massacres began, but the armed frontiersmen held their own and the presence of American forces on the border kept affairs in a far more tranquil state than had been anticipated. In 1777 Burgoyne, the British commander, began his great offensive. With a great army augmented by thousands of Indians, he trod a swath of country on the

west that he scourged and blighted. Fear shivered the hearts of those whose homes lay in the path of this army. Onward it came, a huge hurricane as it were, and leaving in its wake the soil sticky with the blood of the massacred.

Could any force stop this scourge? Those were sleepless nights for the little band of Kentuckians. They could little anticipate the movements of the Indians who were controlled by no law save their own. Nothing prevented them from raiding the settlements miles away from the path of the army. The forces of the Americans were now tied up in front of the great army of Burgoyne. The Indians could harass any place. Led by inhuman squawmen they were here and there and everywhere. In desperation the Americans tried to stem defeat. Gates was removed from the command and St. Clair put at the head of the western army. As Burgoyne approached Ticonderoga, St. Clair abandoned the fort and forthwith began the retreat that gave the Indians their great chance of revenge on all the western frontier.

To the little settlement near where our great great grandparents lived came the direful news, but there was nothing that could avail them. To pack up and flee was to invite death, so the little band of people resolved to die together. At no time could they anticipate when the Indians would appear. A roving band might attack to burn and kill any night.

One day the father went to the settlement. To keep the children interested the mother set them to work. To little seven year old Alice she gave the two little silver cuff clasps and told her to sew them on the sleeves of the mother's newly made nightgown. The little girl set to work, the clasps were pretty and she liked to work with the cuffs for they had dainty lace about the edge—and then they were mother's. Carefully and diligently she worked away, drawing the needle with painstaking care. She was fascinated and intent when the door opened and her father came in.

It was late in the afternoon and he stood a moment watching his daughter, deep furrows wrinkled his brow and he seemed to breathe with an effort. As Alice drew the needle for the last time and broke the thread he drew a deep breath and announced briefly: "Mother, the varmints killed the Smiths over east last night. Tomorrow everyone is to go to the settlement. We better get ready now." Without a word the mother began preparations. She took the gown from the little girl saying, "I shall wear it to night." The boys went out to help their father and Alice helped her mother pack. In the early evening the family retired.

One can never tell from one moment to another what is to happen. Fate decrees many curious twists in life. Happiness may lighten the home and hopes and ambitions reign about the hearth at one moment, only to have death and disaster enshroud and bring terror and fears the next moment. Doom for this little Kentucky family had been sealed.

What happened that night little

Alice could little remember. To her there was great confusion. Shouts, firing of guns, horrible shrieks and crackling of fire. Somehow she found herself running with all the speed her little limbs could make toward the settlement. The next morning she went with the people to the old home. Smoking ruins marked where the once happy home stood, and about the edge were scattered the ghastly remains of the murdered people. There was nothing apparently whereby the remains could be recognized after the Indians had finished their terrible orgie.

Little Alice stunned and as yet unable to comprehend all, could only stare with her hand trustingly clasped in the hand of one of the big hearted pioneers. She walked about with him as the ruins were searched. In their path lay a few bones, the man stooped to look at them and unconsciously little Alice looked too. Suddenly she shrieked. Her whole heart seemed to have been torn from her and all she could do was point with her finger. The big hearted man bent over, the bones were farther from the ruins than the others, carefully looking he saw what little Alice had seen. Seared to the flesh on some bones in the mass were two little silver cuff clasps—the cuff clasps from the nightgown of the mother and which Alice had so patiently and lovingly sewed on the sleeves for her mother only the evening before.

The remainder of the story of the clasps is soon told. Alice was now an orphan. She was taken into the family of the big hearted pioneer and there in Kentucky she grew into beautiful womanhood. The clasps were given her and she reverently kept them as the most valuable treasure in her possession. Eventually she met and loved a lad of the settlement. He too had been left an orphan by the ravages of the Indians.

To this union was born a daughter, who with her husband moved to Indiana and later with her family of five daughters and two sons was to undergo the hardships of the great trail across the plains to the wonderful Oregon country, and to her treasured clasps had been given. They crossed the plains in 1851 and have passed down to the third generation in Oregon, but their history will endure as they pass from generation to generation.

One daughter who crossed the plains in '51, with her family crossed the trail to Tillamook in 1871 and '72. Her husband built the first sawmill on Tillamook bay, and I believe it was the second in the county. There are four generations of her descendants living in Tillamook today.—Contributed.

J. U. G. CLUB

The J. U. G. club met Wednesday November 12, at the home of Mrs. Alvin Wicklund, Mrs. Victor Nielsen was a guest. Names were drawn at this meeting for hostesses for the coming year. After a delightful luncheon the club adjourned.

The annual Christmas party and dinner will be held December 16, at the home of Mrs. F. A. Beltz.

DANCING CLUB FORMED

The Tillamook Married Folks dancing club will give a series of dances the coming winter. The first dance will be held on December 1, 1924, and those following on January 5th, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, and May 4th. These dances fall on the first Monday of each month. A total of sixty-eight members have joined the club and it is expected that the dances and parties will be given either at the K. P. hall or at the armory.

None but married folks may join

the club and only married house guests may be brought as guests.

PASSENGER BUS BURNS

One of the large passenger buses operated by the Portland-Tillamook stage company was completely destroyed by fire Wednesday morning at nine thirty on the road between McMinnville and Newberg.

The smoke was first noticed by the passengers who called the drivers attention. He at once stopped the bus and the passengers got out. The car burst into flames immediately and all attempts to extinguish the blaze were futile and it was completely destroyed.

The bus, which had a capacity of 18 passengers, was valued at \$7,000. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

DUMESNIL GIVES CONCERT

A real treat to musicians and music lovers was the concert of Maurice Dumesnil Monday evening.

The program was well selected and was given with that ease and skill which marks the master pianist. The audience was enthralled and called him back repeatedly for encores.

W. Thomas Coates sang two numbers and Miss Helen Church and Miss Leora Phillippi gave two duets all of which were heartily appreciated.

The concert was arranged by the Monday Musical club.

MORE EXPERIMENTS ON EXTERMINATION

Ira N. Gabrielsen of the United States biological survey was in town Tuesday cooperating with the county agent's office in trying out a new poisonous dust, calcium cyanide, for the eradication of moles. This same material was used in an experiment here a year ago in a different form but did not prove very successful, the present experiment is being conducted on the Morrison Mills place at Fairview.

County Agent Pine and Mr. Gabrielsen treated about an acre plot Tuesday. Mr. Gabrielsen will return from Portland shortly after the first of December to check up on results and treat the remaining portion of the field.

Personal Items

Mrs. J. S. Nye of Rockaway and Mrs. J. A. Cummings of Barview were shopping in town Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Holman of Cloverdale were transacting business in the city Wednesday.

Ole Redberg, a prominent dairyman from the south part of the county was in the city Tuesday transacting business.

The ladies of the Christian church will have a bazaar and food sale December 6, at the Harris jewelry store, all day and evening.—Adv.

Gus Peterson, dairyman of Garibaldi, was in town Wednesday.

L. C. Muscott of Little Nestucca was transacting business in the county agent's office Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lommen were in the city Tuesday from Mohler.

The Women's Relief Corps will hold a bazaar at Dawson and Dunn's grocery Saturday, December 6.—Adv.

Frank Redberg was in the city Tuesday from Cloverdale.

Clyde Kinnaman recently purchased a purebred Jersey bull from Gus Peterson.

The high school dramatic club presents "The Lion and the Mouse" at the high school gym. December 5, 8:00 p. m.—Adv. 7-11

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. George Rogers of Garibaldi at the Boals hospital on November 22.

Mr. and Mrs. William Maxwell visited their son Joseph at the Oregon Agricultural college last week. They attended the foot ball game Saturday.

Dr. Robinson reports the following births: A daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Fay Morrison of Hebo, November 20; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Starr of Nehalem, November 22; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. John Tanner, November 24; a son to Mr. and Mrs. James Imlah of Hebo, November 25; and a son to Mr. and Mrs. George Kostic of Hebo, November 25.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, Lloyd Jones and Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Follett motored to Neskowin Sunday.

Miss Johanna Geijsbeek, attorney from Manzanita, was in the city Monday on legal business.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Winters and daughters accompanied by Mr. Winters' mother were in town Saturday from Brighton.

Mrs. Charles Stephens, one of the contestants in the race for the Buick was in town over the week end.

Harry Hechtner was in Portland the first of the week buying holiday goods for the Larson-Hechtner store. Mrs. Hechtner accompanied him.

FAMILY REUNITED ON THANKSGIVING DAY

For the first time in twelve years the Van Patten family will all meet together around the same table on Thanksgiving day. The five children, Mrs. A. J. Olson, Mrs. Kunze, Mrs. J. Powell, George and Tom Van Patten and the grandchildren will all be present.

FOUR LICENSED TO WED

Eli Wiebe, 24, and Delight Clawson, 19, both of Wheeler were given a marriage license November 22.

On November 25 another license was issued to Earl L. Cook, 31, of Portland and Margaret M. Freilinger, 28.

AMERICAN LEGION MEETING

Tillamook post of the American Legion will meet at the armory Friday night and order instruments and uniforms for its drum corps.

Prices of these articles have been obtained from Frank Lucas, of the Sieberling-Lucas music company of

Portland, who was here last week for that purpose.

COMMISSION PUTS ON AN OBOUT

The Tillamook boxing commission will stage another boxing bout armory here tomorrow night. Maker H. S. Mann announces has lowered the admission price has booked some very good talent for the occasion.

Proceeds from these affairs given to the local post of the can Legion, principally toward ing instruments and uniforms Legion drum corps.

YOUNG MAN ARRESTED LARCENY

Chester Bennett was brought from Valselt, Polk county, to answer to a charge of larceny indictment placed against him secret indictment by the Octob of the grand jury.

Bennett is supposed to have an automobile belonging to a rel Smith and to have left the with it.

Waverly—Masonic lodge spend \$30,000 for a new lodge Hood River—Concrete being on final three piers of W bridge across Columbia river construction should be completed ember.

Prineville—More than 20,000 and 156 cars of cattle shipped past three months.

Salom—Leasing of waterfrerty to Inland Water Tration company first step in esing Willamette river line for Portland and Longview.

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OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

For Our New Home

Oldsmobile and Studebaker

Sales and Service

Opposite Todd Hotel

We will open our doors at the above location Friday, November 28th and respectively invite the public to call upon us and inspect our line of Automobiles and Accessories.

A Free Gift

A substantial present will be given each resident who calls at our sales room on Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29.

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AND

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