

Moving to Tillamook County From Washington

Adella Bays Jensen

Written by her when she was 91

Typed by Dean Bones January 29, 2020

April 3rd or 4th, 1890, my father and mother, Mr. And Mrs. William Napoleon Bays, and six children left Waverly, Washington, with a team and covered wagon for Oregon. With the group were Mr. and Mrs. William Smith and five children and Mrs. Smith's sister, Lizzie Cable. Lizzie Cable made her home with them. Also on the trip were Mr. and Mrs. Mark Curl and their two children, Belle and Otto.

We all had tents, and had to haul some feed along for the horses. The roads were so bad that they hired a man with another team and wagon to haul a load for one or two days. They had to put two teams on each wagon to get through the mud holes.

Mr. Smith had three mares soon due to foal that he stated with. One had a colt the first night. He traded her to a man where we stayed the first night and also one of the others.

My oldest brother, Mark, and I, and also Fanny Smith and her brother George, walked the biggest part of the time or would ride some of the horses bareback. Some of the other kids would walk a while.

They usually rested on Sunday. It gave the horses a rest and maybe sometimes they would have to have some shoes put on some of the horses. It also gave the women a chance to do a little washing for the twenty of us.

When we got to The Dalles, there was too much snow in the mountain. Everything had to be shipped from there by boat to Portland which took two or three days.

When we got to Dolph, there was a toll gate. My dad told us kids to all get in the wagons or they wouldn't let us through and we would have to go back and live with the Indians.

We arrived in Beaver, May 10, 1890. We camped at Beaver a week or two while the men worked on the road and helped roll the big boulders out so they could make a track through the river so the teams could pull a part of a load across at a time. Then it would be so steep on the other side that they would have to hitch another team on to get up the bank. Sometimes they would have to unload most of the load and pack it up the bank.

Father homesteaded 160 acres up Bays Creek (named after my father). We finally got as far as where Quintin Borba lives now. The old house was next to the hill. We lived there until my father with some help split out lumber for a house on Bays Creek.

The same year we came there, they built a little schoolhouse on the Jim Brown place (*Brown School*). I don't remember the first teacher's name. We walked a mile to school. They had school three months a year.

They moved to Beaver in 1911 and ran the Beaver Hotel. On Labor Day, 1918, there was a fire that destroyed the hotel and most of the buildings in Beaver leaving my father's barn and the Ayer's place. They built a home on the same spot on which the hotel stood and there they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary July 4, 1926. They lived out the remainder of their lives in this home.

In 1891 I did housework for a few weeks at Elbert Bixley's. His wife was sick. The next two summers I worked for Mrs. Joe Bixby. I received \$11.00 a month. They had a store, grocery and dry goods where Virgil Donaldson lives now.

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October 19, 1893, I was married to Hans Lars Jensen in my home. Hans had filed on a 160 acre homestead in 1891 and had a cabin. He had bought lumber for a house, and Herman Farmer built it for us. We rented a little house at the foot of the hill for a few weeks to live in. Ten children were born to us on the homestead. We were lucky we didn't have much sickness. Hans was bit by a bear while hunting the neighbor's cows. Chester had pneumonia when he was four years old.

We had one cow, a milk cow, and three heifers coming on two years old. One night when we were away they got out into a patch of larkspur. The three heifers died in the patch, but the milk cow came to the barn. The next day they were all dead.

For neighbors, there was the William Thackers with 7 or 8 kids who sold to Tom Eadon with 5 or 6 kids). There was Charlie Sears, Jim Brown, Aunt Lizzie and Hank Brown. Albert Lynch bought the Sears place. Then there were Grace, Fannie, Troy and Louis Lynch.

We moved to Hebo on the Jensen Homestead about 1917 or 1918. Then in 1942 we moved to Beaver. We celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1943. My husband passed away in 1948. I spent the next seven years with my son, Merle, until his death. I then moved to my daughter's home, Ethel Borba.

Adella Jensen passed away October 31, 1973 at the age of 97.