

1901 Bennett Creek Road
Cottage Grove, Oregon
June 4, 2001

Dear Mr. Bones,

When we stopped to visit with our cousin Cynthia on May 24, you asked us to write down any other stories that had to do with the East Beaver school.

Nella Grace Holgate
These are memories our Mother told to us as she grew up on East Beaver Creek and went to the East Beaver School.

In order to keep a school open there were supposed to be at least 6 students. One year the number was only 5 and most of them were the Holgate children, so it was decided to let the youngest brother Gus go to school too, to bring the number up to 6. Many years later Gus was killed in a head on car crash about 15 miles east of Cottage Grove,

One day after heavy snow, Dad was afraid we would get lost on our way home from the East Beaver School house since there was only a trail now covered with snow. So Dad came to get us. He carried a big hack umbrella and we followed him home by stepping in his tracks and the umbrella covered our heads.

Dad raised pigs. After the milk was left at the East Beaver cheese factory, the empty milk cans were filled with whey for the pigs. The cans were unloaded from the wagon to a landing above the pig trough. Mom was emptying a milk can and it fell into the pig pen. I was small enough to climb down into the pen and raise the can so Mom could reach it. Our old boar pig thought I'd be good eating and started after me. Mom said run and I raised my arms and Mom pulled me up onto the landing.

We children drove the cows two or three miles to open range. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the East Beaver School house was a gate across the road. Us kids turned the cows through the gate and went back to school. One night after school it was Curtis's turn to get the cows, about 30 of them. We took a dog named Tim with us each day to school. He was a white cattle dog. Curt took the dog and went to get the cows. One half mile through the gate there were large maple trees in what later became a park. In those maple trees Curt saw a bear and the dog chased it. Curt hurriedly gathered up the cows and rode home on the back of the bull.

Another time on a cold winter night when we left the house to go to the barn we saw tracks close to the house. Dad came back and saw where they went around the house and up the hill, a whole pack of wolf tracks.

One of the teachers at the school was Miss Dawson. She

would come out from Tillamook each Momday morning and stay with one family, and then on Friday evening go back into Tillamook. Her brother Drury (Drew) would bring her out on Monday morning early and come after her Friday evening. He ment the oldest sister Ora, and when she was 18, they married. It was said this broke Dads heart and he was always more stern and gruff with we who were left.

One of the teachers, Mrs Creesy was married and brought her small daughter with her. Mom took care of the child each day and at the end of the month was given \$15. To my Mom this was a LOT of money and she had dreams of how she would spend it. However, during this time, Mom was not able to do the washing, which ment building a fire down by the creek, heating the water in a tub, then scrubbing the clothes on a washboard, then rinse, wring, and hang to dry. After doing this the few week that Mom couldn't, Dad spent her \$15 for a down payment of a washing machine, and that is where the following \$15 went each month.

My sister Ora and I went to get the cows on the hillside across from the house. Dad had been clearing land and the logs were too big for me to climb over so Ora left me in the shade under a tree and she went on looking for the cows. After a little bit she told me to call the dog to me. Tim (the dog) started barking and looking up the tree. I looked up there too and I saw a huge big cat. It jumped off the limb above me and ran with the dog after it. Dad later killed it and he said it was a Lynx.

Our neighbor Henry Elf couldn't talk very plain. He called me Dacie instead of Gracie and Gus, Dussie. One April fools day he passed our house going to the factory with his milk. My brother Gus told him the factory was closed so he turned his team around and was going back home when Gus yelled "April Fool". Mr. Ely said, "Oh Dussie and Dacie you would think of that.

My Mom's youngest children were Twins, Nora and Marvin. They were born after our oldest sister had married, left home and actually had her first child just months before the twins were born. Sister Nora was asked by some of her friends how her big sister Ora was. Nora called Nonie, said she didn't know and when she got home from school that day asked Mommie who Ora was. That was when she learned she had and older sister that not one talked about because she broke her Dad's heart.

Nonie remembers one time when the school teacher was trying very hard to prepare a Christmas program. There was no piano at the school but one of the neighbors had one, so the teacher took all the children there to practice the songs. Dad came after us that day, and when he found us not at school, he would not let us be in the school program.

Besides, milking cows, raising pigs, growing big gardens for food, and hunting and fishing our Dad would cut cord wood for the cheese factory and the schools, as that was the only kind of heat then.

There were no school buses, we walked the mile or two from our home to the school house. Sometime if the weather was really bad, Dad would bring the horse and wagon. This was a real treat and didn't happen very often.

It was nice to meet you when we stopped to see Cynthia. I probably have encluded material you might not want, but these are some of the stories our Mom and her sister Nora have told us. Use whatever you wish and if some don't fit in with what you need it is fine to not use them.

If you want a little information about the Holgate family, here it is.

Eli Perkins married Sally Hull and started for Oregon in 1844 . They had been born in 1786 and 1789 so were not young people. They brought most of their children with them. Two daughters had married Johnson brothers. William Perkins might have been here early too, but he brought his family to Oregon and Yamhill county in 1853. They had two children a daughter Maryetta and a son Miron. Waterman Johnson, and his three children from Mass, New York, and Ohio, also came to Oregon in 1851. His oldest son, Curtis, ment Maryetta, they married. The Johnsons then moved to the Elkton area and then onto the Smith River. Most of their children were born there and because of some trouble they sold there land, went down the Smith River to Gardiner, Oregon, took a boat and went to Tillamook. John Henry Holgate left his home in Michigan and came to Oregon City, Yamhill and crossed over the mountain into Tillamook. The Johnson's had started logging again, as they had on the Smith River. Holgate had worked in the woods in Michigan so he soon found their logging camp. Ovilla was helping her Mom cooking in the logging camp. John ment Ovilla and they were married, living first on Bewely Creek, and one cousin says he was told they lived in a big hollowed out Cedar tree that they put a top on. I don't know if that is true or not. Eventually they moved up East Beaver. Nora is the only one left living of John and Ovilla's children, I think there are still 11 living grandchildren and many greats.

Sincerely,
Nora Treadwell