

**Dear Gerry Hysmith - Here Is Another Chapter of the Dolph Hotel**

*typed by Dean Bones February 2023*

*This two page letter was written in long-hand and copied from the original. It was very difficult to read, but I hope I have it correct with perhaps only a few mistakes that are probably people's names. db*

Dear Gerry Hysmith,

Here is another chapter of the Dolph Hotel as related by Garrett Ward to Alex Walker.

The original Dolph Hotel as related was on the hill above Sulphur Springs on as near as I can remember the hotel in Yamhill County and the store and post office on the Tillamook County side of the old wagon road which started at the Bee Ranch and came toward the coast. Lew Shortridge had the Three Rivers Hebo section, and at the bottom of the hill in a small meadow occupied by William Baxter, his 2 sons and Olive who also was one of my school teachers. They had also a toll gate on the Little Nestucca River after we arrived from Chicago in 1896.

My father A.C. Kautz built the Sulphur Springs Hotel which later was moved across Louie Creek where Highway 22 was built known as the Sour Grass Road and by many was known as the Dolph Hotel. It was operated for a long time by George Baxter.

There were a lot of settlers on the Little Nestucca, and at that time there was first after leaving Sulphur Springs a bachelor name Dahl, then the Jack Hart place, then Earnest Werner (?) who went to Klondike, then Charley McClane who carried mail from Dolph to Oretown. Then there were the McKnights who were on the west side of Little Nestucca now occupied, I believed, by Ruth Henry who had a wonderful herd of purebred Jerseys. Then downriver from them on the east side of the river was the Ry (?) Gwinn homestead later occupied by Joseph Steinmassel who also was a carpenter to whom goes the credit for a lot of the fine old houses still used around Cloverdale.

Then on the west side opposite the Guinn place was the Orr place where also was located the first school #44. We had 9 pupils. Our first teacher was Musa Geer, a niece of former governor Theodore Thurston Geer. I had to walk 2 miles over mountains as our homestead was located between the Little Nestucca and Slab Creek. In this valley untouched by the fire that had swept the coast lived 5

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families, Joe Steinmassel, Theodore Arndt, Emil Arndt, a bachelor, also another bachelor named Blacksmith and A.C. Kautz.

Further down the Little Nestucca past the Gwinn place was the Bisconner Ranch which would be on the west side of the river. Then the Jobe and Frank Foster families. Next the Cravens and the Altenbergers. In them days our freight was hauled on sleds drawn by a pair of oxen. There were a few sturdy wagons also.

These were the days of no roads but just drive where you could and cross the stream wherever you could find a place to cross.

Bob Kautz