

7.0 APPENDIX D - CONTEXT

The following appendix is a full account of A.T. Smith's life. This document was written by Kimberli Fitzgerald and based upon the research by George Williams and Mary Jo Morelli of Friends of Historic Forest Grove.

Alvin Thompson Smith

Connecticut: Birth and Childhood

Alvin Thompson Smith was born November 17, 1802 in Branford, New Haven County, Connecticut. Branford was settled by Puritans in 1644, from Wethersfield, Connecticut and New Haven, Connecticut. Alvin's mother, Desire Thompson, was the daughter of Samuel Thompson and Desire Moulthrop Thompson, and she was christened in the East Haven, Connecticut, Congregational Church on February 2, 1772. The Moulthrop and Thompson families were both well established families in East Haven and members of the "Old Stone" Congregational Church. One Thompson house still stands on the East Haven Commons.¹

Alvin T. Smith spent his childhood in Branford, later learning the carpenter's trade. He was one of eleven children, eight boys and three girls. The first born, a boy, died at age one year, ten months. Stephan, the oldest boy to reach adulthood, was born in 1793 and died of pneumonia in 1867. Two other older brothers were lost at sea; Warrin in 1819, Willard on Dec. 23, 1856. Another older brother, Samuel, moved to Manhattan, Kansas. Caleb Alfred was 2-1/2 years younger than Alvin and farmed in Illinois. Alvin's sister, Charlotte Desire Smith, was born in 1811. She was still living in New Haven County, unmarried, in 1877 when Alvin made out his will and left to her his Connecticut properties and assets. Nancy was the youngest child, born in 1813. Of the remaining two, Sarah was born in 1807 and Thomas Marvin in 1809.

Illinois: Young Adulthood

In 1827, at the age of 25, Alvin moved to Fairfield, Illinois, to farm with his brother, Caleb. Fairfield is now named Mendon and is some north and a bit east of Quincy, Illinois. While living on the Mendon farm, besides farm chores, he worked as a carpenter in Quincy.

After attending a camp meeting in Quincy, on September 23, 1838, Alvin became a member of the Quincy Congregational Church. Harvey Clark was interim minister at the Quincy Congregational Church. Harvey Clark and his new wife, Emeline were a graduates of the newly formed Oberlin College.² Present in the congregation were Philo B. Littlejohn and his wife, Adelaide; and John Smith Griffin, an 1838 graduate of Oberlin, with his spouse, Desire. They were all attentively listening when the needs of the Indians were expressed by the Oberlin Missionary Society.

On March 19, 1840, Smith married Abigail Raymond, the 5th child of 14 born to Abraham and Betsey Gray Raymond. Abigail was born in Sherburne, Chenango County, New York on April 21, 1793, nine and a half years older than Alvin.

1840: Smith with Missionaries Crossing the Oregon Trail

Six people left Illinois in 1840 for Oregon Territory. They included Harvey and Emeline Clark, Philo and Adelaide Littlejohn and Alvin and Abigail Smith. Arrangements had been made to meet a party of the American Fur Brigade, led by Andrew Drips, on April 29 at Westport, Missouri. Drips had agreed to let the prospective missionaries accompany him.³

The Clark party was ready to move forward from Westport with three wagons, horses, mules, and seventeen cows. Harvey Clark had made arrangements with Robert Newell, a Mountain Man, to pilot the group.⁴ Newell, with Joe Meek, William Doughty, George Ebberts, Caleb Wilkins, William Craig, and the little group of would-be missionaries, continued on to Fort Hall. Several of these "fur men" ended up coming on to the Tualatin Plains in 1840.⁵

¹Williams, George. "The Thompson family arrived in New Haven when three brothers came from Lenham, Kent County, England; Anthony, John and William. Anthony Thompson signed the colony constitution in June 1679 and John Thompson later added his name, February 7, 1657. John Thompson is considered the ancestor of the East Haven Thompsons, taking land at the south end and Muddy (Stoney) river. The Thompsons became active in town and church activities and had homes throughout East Haven. The names of the spouse's families, Moulthrop, Hemingway, and Powell, all represented prominent East Haven families. The Smith family arrived in East Haven, Connecticut in 1652 in the person of Captain Thomas Smith, born in 1634, probably in England. He initially settled in Fairfield, Connecticut. East Haven's invitation for an experienced smith was extended to him with the reward of a large tract of land in return for serving the town for five years. He married Elizabeth Patterson, the only child of Edward Patterson of South End, East Haven, and added his wife's ample inherited property to that of his own. This property remained in the Smith family for many years and may, in fact, be the source of some of Alvin's later wealth. Captain Thomas Smith is considered the founder of the Smith family in New Haven County. Alvin's grandfather, Stephen Smith, b. Nov. 28, 1724, in East Haven, was honored to be chosen as a deacon of the Old Stone Congregational Church in 1778. He died in 1816. Stephen Smith's grandfather, again Thomas Smith, and son of Captain Thomas Smith, was also honored to be a deacon. He died in 1762. The Smith family homes were in the south end of East Haven."

² Information on Oberlin: Buley, R. Carlyle. *The Old Northwest Pioneer Period 1815-1840*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1951, Vol. II. Pg 404. & Fletcher, Robert Samuel. *A History of Oberlin College, From Its Foundation Through the Civil War*. Oberlin, OH: Oberlin College, 1943.

³ They were not, however, the only missionaries traveling with Drips. Also under Drips protection was Catholic Father Pierre Jean De Smet, S.J. In a letter to Father Blanchet he described his purpose as to visit the Oregon Territory looking for desirable places to establish missions. He seemed to be particularly interested in the Nez Perce. (Hafen, LeRoy R. *The Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West*, Vol. I. 2000, The Arthur Clark Company. p.163. & Oregon Historical Society. & *Notices and Voyages of the Famed Quebec Mission to the Pacific Northwest*, Portland, OR, The Oregon Historical Society, 1956, p.72.) Most likely the Catholic and Protestant missionary groups had little or no contact with each other since they were separated into smaller "pilot" groups.

⁴ Dobbs, Caroline C. *Men of Champoege*. Portland, OR: Metropolitan Press, 1932, p.150.

⁵ *History of the Pacific Northwest: Oregon and Washington*. Portland, Oregon: North Pacific History Company, 1889, Vols. 1 & 2. (Preface by Elwood Evans). & Buan, Carlolyn M. *A Changing Mission, The Story of a Pioneer Church*. Forest Grove, OR: The United Church of Christ, (Congregational), 1995. & Peltier, Jerome. *Black Harris*. Fairfield, WA: Ye Galleon Press, 1986.

The group reached Fort Hall on July 20. At Fort Hall on July 21 Smith loaded 8 pack horses with 1440 pounds of goods to be delivered to Walla Walla where he could reclaim it or, if he wished, claim the \$80 value it represented. The cattle were also left at Fort Hall with credit to replace them at the end of their trip (probably Vancouver).⁶

Waiilatpu, (Walla Walla, Washington)

On August 14, 1840, the group arrived at Dr. Whitman's mission at Waiilatpu, but the arriving missionary families were not greeted with open arms.⁷ Smith and Asahel Munger worked on the construction of a fanning mill followed by Smith helping Whitman clean some wheat. In mid-September, the "Independents" did some scouting taking a circuitous route around the Umatilla and John Day River drainages and returning to Waiilatpu. On October 16 this party, minus the Mungers, set out for the Grand Ronde Valley to establish a mission among the Snakes. Their late start brought them into snow which disheartened Clark and Littlejohn and the entire party returned to Waiilatpu by October 21. By October 30th Alvin Smith was making preparations to spend the winter at Spalding's Lapwai mission on the Clearwater River, near present day Lewiston. Only the Mungers and Littlejohns remained at Waiilatpu with the Whitmans.

Winter at Lapwai (Lewiston, Idaho)

Alvin and Abigail Smith arrived at Spalding's Lapwai mission near present day Lewiston, Idaho on November 9th, 1840. The greatest part of his time Alvin spent working in the saw mill which had been newly completed in the spring of 1840. He also made refinements on the grist mill, which had also been basically finished along with the saw mill but not put into use until August 5, 1841.⁸ Much of the time he was working in sub zero weather. He also made himself useful making axe handles and cutting fire wood. For Eliza Spalding he made a loom and some quilt frames, something much appreciated by her. In March 1841, he spent much of the time at the mill, joined by Harvey Clark, who had come over from Kamiah, and Philo Littlejohn, who had spent the winter at Waiilatpu.

In April 1841, Alvin Smith made a trip to Waiilatpu where he found Harvey Clark and the two spent time discussing their mission to help the Indians. Returning to Lapwai, his schedule remained much the same, working at the saw mill, preparing the grist mill for the fall harvest, and doing general chores around the mission including care of the garden. In July 1841, he finished work on a cradle and cut and cradled some wheat. On August 22, 1841 he noted almost sadly, "*It is the last Sabbath we expect to spend here with mr Spaulding.*" On the April 25, he settled with Spalding.⁹

Fall 1841, Settement in the Tualatin Plains (Forest Grove, Oregon)

On September 1, 1841, Philo Littlejohn, Harvey Clark, Asahel Munger, Alvin T. Smith, with wives left the Whitman Mission and started for the Willamette Valley. The trip was made by horseback with Abigail Smith and Adelaide Littlejohn going by boat. They were to arrive in the Willamette Valley without their supplies which had been stored at Fort Walla Walla. All had been lost in a fire on September 2, 1841.¹⁰

Having arrived on the Tualatin Plains toward the end of September, the first order of business was to find a location and construct some sort of lodging. A.T. Smith now faced building shelter before the winter storms arrived. Since he still had hopes of bringing Christianity to the Indians, he chose a place close to an Indian village for his home. On September 25 and again on September 27, 1841, A.T. Smith, accompanied by Rev. Clark and Robert Newell, went searching and found a location. This site

⁶ The story of their trip in the words of A.T. Smith is recorded in the History of the Pacific Northwest: Oregon & Washington. Edited by Elwood Evans. Volume I. Portland, OR: North Pacific History Company, 1889, p. 219-20. The dictated, or written, story given by A.T. Smith to the editor can be supplemented some.

⁷ In a letter written to her mother dated October 9, 1840, Narcissa Whitman (Whitman, Narcissa. The Letters of Narcissa Whitman - 1836-1847. Fairfield, WA: Ye Galleon Press, 1986. p.98-99.) expresses her situation. Marcus Whitman added his thoughts on the growing situation in a letter to Rev. David Greene, Corresponding Secretary of the ABCFM on October 15, 1840. (Hulbert, Archer Butler, and Dorothy Printup Hulbert. Marcus Whitman, Crusader, Part two, 1839 to 1843. Denver, Colorado: The Stewart Commission of Colorado College and The Denver Public Library, 1938, p.234-37.) Much of what he wrote duplicates that which Narcissa stated in the letter to her mother. He indicated that Clark, Littlejohn, Smith, and wives had arrived mid-August and, except for a short absence to explore, were still at Waiilatpu. They were expected to leave in a few days, either to locate or to winter among the Snakes in order to acquire the language. Whitman, not wishing to be a supplier for them and yet not feeling he could refuse them directed them to take what they needed for the winter and go and do the best they could.

⁸ Drury, Clifford M. Henry Harmon Spalding, Pioneer of Old Oregon. Caldwell, ID: The Caxton Printers, Ltd, 1936, p.240.

⁹ Spalding shared his sentiments of regret for the departure in a letter to Rev. David Greene, assistant secretary in charge of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, in charge of Indian affairs. (Drury, Clifford M. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the Opening of Old Oregon. Vol I. Glendale, CA: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1973, p.384.

¹⁰ A letter of Marcus Whitman, written to Rev. David Greene, tells of this unfortunate happening. (Hulbert, Archer Butler and Dorothy Printup Hulbert. Marcus Whitman, Crusader Part Two, 1839-1843. Denver, CO: The Stewart Commission of Colorado College and The Denver Public Library, 1938, p.235.)

was just about one mile south from the future Forest Grove and near the confluence of the Tualatin River and Gales Creek. The nearby Indian village was called *kootpahl*.¹¹ After staking out his claim he chose a spot under a large fir tree for his home site.

The original plans discussed back in Quincy, Illinois, called for A.T. Smith to provide most of the physical labor. He was an accomplished carpenter and had the tools and knowledge to construct the needed structures. Besides this, he had experience in farming. Harvey Clark was an ordained minister, and they felt his time would be best used to work with the Indians. Littlejohn could assist where needed. The three families, Smiths, Littlejohns, and Clarks planned to live together. Clark and Littlejohn initially worked at the site with Smith and made some trips to Fort Vancouver for supplies while Smith prepared to put up a log cabin.

Unfortunately for Smith, by October 12, 1841 the Littlejohns had decided to separate from their agreement with Smith and Clark. They left to return to Waiilatpu, but within a week were back again. That winter, however, the Harvey Clarks and the Littlejohns were spending their time at Salem with the Methodist Mission and making little effort to work with the Indians.¹²

Smith, however, was not without help. His fur trapping overland trail friends were already settled. Ewing Young was in the Chehalem Valley, William Doughty had a cabin at the foot of the Chehalem Mountains, and George Ebbert had a farm at Champoeg, while Newell and Meek were on the Tualatin Plains.¹³

1841-1854: Smith's Life in the Tualatin Plains

In the fall of 1841 after his initial settlement, Smith was kept busy building his first of two log cabins and developing a farm. He cut out a pair of truck wheels from a large oak log, plus a yoke for the oxen. He made a cart and started cutting timber for his house. Smith continued to work on his house and on November 5, 1841 with the help of neighbors, he "*Finish't raising the house.*"¹⁴ All through the winter months he continued to haul timber to the house and work on it and gather supplies. The roof was completed by November 27, 1841. By the end of February 1842, Smith was plowing, although the plow was giving him difficulty and in need of much repairing.

Ending of the Clark, Smith & Littlejohn's Plan for a Mission in the Tualatin Plains

Smith's diary entry of March 22, 1842, clearly expressed the decision to break up the mission plan: "*...I concluded as Brs C[lark] & L[ittlejohn] were so faithless about accomplishing anything for the Indians & as they were so unstable about pushing the objects ahead. That it is best to break up and we agreed so to do.*"¹⁵ This agreement to breakup did not reach conclusion until December 1842 when Rev. John Griffin was requested to be an arbitrator in making property settlements. Both Smith and Clark agreed to abide by his decisions. The Smith's diary entry of December 30, 1842 reports the conclusion and settlement which ended the Indian mission agreement.¹⁶

Between March and the December break-up, Smith continued to farm, planting wheat, peas, potatoes, corn and melons. During this time, he also continued to keep a relationship with Harvey Clark who was preaching with some regularity on the East Plains. Smith made trips to the local Indian camp on some of the Sabbaths. While Smith, Clark and Littlejohn were no longer pursuing the mission, the families still worshiped together. In June 1842, John Griffin formed a church on the East Tualatin Plains with five members joining. Charter members were The Rev. John S. Griiffin, Desire Griffin, Rev. Harvey Clark, Emeline Clark, and Abigail Smith. By October 9, Alvin Smith had joined the new church along with William Doughty, Eliza Munger, and Philo and Adelaide Littlejohn.¹⁷

Even though the mission agreement between Harvey Clark and A.T. Smith was ended, there seemed to be some agreement between them as to furthering the education of Indian children. In a letter written by Smith's wife in 1843, Abigail indicates that A.T. Smith took his land claim with the precise purpose of encouraging the "benighted" Indians to undertake agriculture and learn the "ways of the white men."¹⁸ Discouraged by the Indian's reluctance and the loss of his partners, Smith gave up plans to make

¹¹ Lyman, H.S. "Indian Names." *Oregon Historical Society Quarterly* September, 1900, p. 323. & Mackey, Harold. *The Kalapuyans, a Sourcebook on the Indians of the Willamette Valley*. Salem, OR: Mission Hill Museum Association, Inc., 1974.

¹² Buan, Carolyn. *A Changing Mission. The Story of a Pioneer Church*. Forest Grove, OR: The United Church of Christ (Congregational).

¹³ Hafen, LeRoy R. *The Mountain Men and the Fur Trade*, Vol 1, Op. cit., p. 328.

¹⁴ A.T. Smith files, Oregon Historical Society Library Archives, Portland, Oregon; Diary entry 11/5/1841.

¹⁵ Ibid. 3/22/1842.

¹⁶ A detailed description of John Griffin's interview with A.T. Smith and Harvey Clark was published in the *Hillsboro Argus* five-installment series on the Tualatin Valley Church history. The first two installments, October 6, 1927, and October 13, 1927 include a record of the interview.

¹⁷ Richardson, Steven W. "The Two Lives of John Smith Griffin." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* Winter 1990, p.347.

¹⁸ Mss 8, A.T. Smith files, Oregon Historical Society Library Archives, Portland, Oregon. Letter written to Cousin Jane, 1853.

farmers of the Indians, but wanted to find another way to help the local Indian population. In a letter from to Henry Spalding on March 9, 1843, A.T. Smith indicated that they agreed that opening a boarding school to include Indian children would serve them best.¹⁹

In the summer of 1842 Harvey & Emeline Clark moved to the East Plains.²⁰ On June 15, 1842, Smith started hauling logs to build Clark a home on the East Plains as well as assisting him with some chores. They continued to help each other even while they were in the process of breaking their contract and dividing their goods. Harvey Clark opened the first school on the Tualatin Plains in this new home near Glencoe, amongst the retired fur traders and Red River settlers. The school was open to the Indian children as well as to whites and those of mixed blood.²¹ By 1845 he was once again on the West Plains and using his home on the corner of 15th and Elm, Forest Grove, as a school.²²

Farming at A.T. Smith's Farm: 1841-1854

The hardships of life on the Plains is demonstrated by Smith's problems in getting his grain milled. It took a total of eight days to make a trip to Fort Vancouver with his grain and return to his home on the West Tualatin Plains. The year 1843 concluded with the settlers getting together in December to consider the construction of a road from the Tualatin Plains to the Willamette River. Without means to travel, the communities were isolated. River travel was a possibility, but there were difficulties reaching the river. Much of the business of the county was conducted at Oregon City, and there were still no good routes of travel between Oregon City and the Plains. In April 1845, he spent a day transplanting peach trees. In 1849 he added more peach trees plus some apple trees. Smith's orchards got a big boost in 1853. He spent numerous days grafting apple and pear sprouts as well as adding more trees. Sprouts were obtained from Henderson Luelling and Thomas Naylor. Luelling brought 800 fruit trees to Oregon in two wagons in 1847, planting an orchard near Milwaukee.²³ It was a great time for apples. Disease was not present and the trees produced well. Many apples were shipped to the California gold fields at a good profit. Later, the common diseases hit the trees, and there was a period of time, before controls were developed, that the orchards did not prosper. T.G. Naylor also had a large orchard of apples in Forest Grove. Alvin also had Cherry trees and noted in July 1871 that many stopped by to get them.²⁴ The seed business was prosperous; particularly peas, wheat, and onion seed were mentioned. When Abigail's nephew, Henry Raymond, arrived, he described his uncle's farm as a dairy.

1848 may have marked the beginning of a commercial expansion of Smith's dairy business. In July 1848 Smith worked about six days building a cheese press. He traveled almost monthly to Portland to trade, but the diary does not express what he had for trade. On December 12-14, 1851, he specifically mentions taking his butter to Portland which became almost a monthly occurrence through 1854. In February 1855, he sent 1-1/2 pounds of butter to T.J. Dryer by the mail carrier.²⁵ The following month, he went to Portland with butter, eggs, and cheese to sell, and let Mr. Thomas Frazar have his cheese to sell on a 5% commission. Frazar arrived in Portland in 1853 and opened a mercantile business. There were other products from the Smith farm. In August 1854, he arrived in Portland with 45 dozen eggs. On another trip to the city he took bacon and peaches. No doubt these commodities were also available to the local people .

The earliest records on file at the Oregon State Archives in Salem are for 1852 and for that year and the following year record the numbers of farm animals. In 1852 Smith had 15 horses, 30 sheep, 72 head of cattle, and 19 hogs. Also listed was 1 watch (or clock), \$100 of money earning interest, and improvement on land claims estimated at \$1,100. His total property valuation was \$4,456. In 1853 he added 2 horses, 9 sheep, and 7 cows, with an increased valuation to \$5,358. 1854 saw his valuation increase to \$10,600 which may represent construction on his new frame home.

Farm Hands

Alvin T. Smith did not try to operate his farm without help. Often it was neighbors coming in to do particular jobs, as he regularly did for them as well. He hired others to work with him -- sometimes on shares and other times to be paid by the day. Many of

¹⁹ Letter on file at the Washington State University Libraries/5610.

²⁰ Robertson, James R. "Origin of Pacific University." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* Vol 6, 1905, p.110. Buan, op cit., p.26.

²¹ Lyman, Horace S. *History of Oregon, The Growth of an American State, Vol. 3.* New York: The North Pacific Publishing Society, 1903, p.223.

²² Other local pioneer settlers also pursued the establishment of schools during this time period. When William Geiger returned to the Tualatin Plains after managing Whitman's mission during Whitman's trip East, he took his claim of land east of Smith's claim where he lived out his life. Upon his return to the West Tualatin Plains, William Geiger did start a school in his home. Mention of it in the Smith diary is June 22, 1845, when Alvin "attended a sabbath meeting at Br Geigers Schoolhouse with Br. Clark preaching." A.T. Smith and Geiger were close friends throughout the rest of their lives.

²³ Scott, Harvey W., Compiled by Leslie M. Scott. *History of the Oregon Country, Vol. III,* Cambridge: The Riverside Press, 1924, p.346.

²⁴ McClintock, Thomas. "Birth of the Pacific Coast Fruit Industry." *Oregon Historical Quarterly,* June 1967, p.153.

²⁵ Scott, Harvey W. *Ibid.* Vol II, p. 46 & Vol. V. p.214. T.J Dryer was the founder of the Oregonian, then a weekly, on December 4, 1850.

those he hired or contracted with were emigrants just arriving in Oregon. Most arrived with their finances depleted and in need of work to build a reserve, in spite of free land, to get settled. Others just wanted time to evaluate the situation before making their commitment; time to look around.

Early on, November 1, 1841, Alvin hired a Mr. Page to work for a month for 16 dollars. There is no further mention of this name and no indication he stayed in the area. On November 22, 1843, Garrett W. McGary came to live with Smith for a while, although they were soon living separately. Why he came is not known, although A.T. was helping him move some logs. He arrived in Oregon in the great migration of 1843 and may have been associated with David Lenox during that trip, but finally settled a DLC in Polk County in April 1853.²⁶

Jacob Hammer, a Quaker, arrived in Oregon in late 1844 with his wife Hannah and two young sons and a daughter. Soon the Hammer family moved to the West Plains and on March 24, 1845, Smith had come to agreement with Jacob Hammer to have the balance of his field to cultivate for the year. A.T. would furnish seed and Implements and Hammer would receive “*half he makes in the half bushel*” ready for market, as well as half the potatoes he grows. The Smith’s boarded him while he worked on the place. Mr. Hammer proved to be an industrious worker, staying on until at least January 2, 1847, the last diary reference to him. Dr. Matthew Hunter was signed up to work for four months at fifteen dollars per month starting in December 1845. Little more was found concerning him.

The Andrews Harper family arrived in Oregon in 1846, coming from Illinois. Alvin’s brother Caleb, who was still living in Quincy, sent a letter and 21 gold pieces to him via Andrews. The Harpers took a Donation Land Claim to Smith’s west, sharing his west boundary. The family arrived with ten children, with an eleventh born within three months. The oldest boy, David, was hired on a daily basis by Smith. At times he also hired the brother, Eli. During this same time he had what must have been a neighbor, David Carle, working on fencing, hauling rails, etc., at least between October 1846 and March 1849.

On October 15, 1847, Smith rented his field to Samuel Davis on the halves. Davis arrived in Oregon in 1846, coming to Washington County.²⁷ In July 1850, he settled a Donation Land Claim in Yamhill County next to Thomas Owens, uncle of the children the Smiths adopted. This is another of the arriving pioneers that A.T. Smith accommodated by leasing his fields to provide them with an income until they were ready to make a decision on settling.

Next in line to rent the Smith fields was F.W. Brown. A contract was made on March 11, 1851 “*on the same condition as I have usually.*” In May of the same year he also sold Brown four oxen for 525 dollars. The following year he made a contract with Brown to sell him butter for 3 months at 50 cents a pound. In May 1852, Alvin attended a political meeting at Brown’s store. This is the only mention of such a store. That December he went to have a settlement with F.W. Brown and there are no further entries in the diary to indicate that they had any other dealings.

Darius Smith, born in New York, arrived in Oregon on August 30, 1850. In September of 1851, Alvin offered his usual help to incoming settlers, “letting out” his cows for one year. Darius was given the entire care of the cows including making butter and cheese. Payment to Darius Smith for this was half the profit of the cheese and butter, all the milk for both families and free board. In addition he received 1/2 the increase in the herd. Later Darius also agreed to bring firewood to the house and do chores.

Frank Reasoner stopped by the Smith farm during 1853 and made himself useful in planting crops and general chores around the farm for pay. In October 1853 Smith recorded the release of his cows to Horace A. Hent for a year on the same conditions that Raymond had received, adding use of a bit of ground on shares.

Religion & Community

As would be expected from the local community who settled initially in this area they were a tight knit religious community. In particular Alvin Thompson Smith was passionate about his religion. He was not easily influenced, particularly in matters of religion. He demonstrated a resolute strong-mindedness throughout his life. The Sabbath activities of Alvin Smith and the philosophy guiding his day-to-day activities shadow those of Puritan New England.²⁸ Smith was uncompromising in his position, particularly as it applied to his own activities, but he also expected those visiting in his home to respect his Sabbath. Even though

²⁶ In the interval he spent time in the Plains, staying with the Smith family only until he was settled. (Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims, Vol. II. Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 1959.) With the same migrating group was Garrett’s sister, Elizabeth McGary, who married Asa Lawrence Lovejoy, 1842 emigrant and one of the founders of the Portland townsite. (Snyder, Eugene E. Portland Names and Neighborhoods: Their Historic Origins. Portland, OR: Binford & Mort, 1979 & History of Pacific Northwest-Oregon and Washington, Vol II. Portland, OR: North Pacific History Company, 1889, p.433-34.)

²⁷ Lang, H.O. History of the Willamette Valley. Portland, Oregon: Geo. H. Himes Book and Job Printer, 1885.

²⁸ Earle, Alice Morse. The Sabbath in Puritan New England. Williamstown, Massachusetts: Corner House Publishers, 1974; First published in 1891. & Earle, Alice Morse. Home Life in Colonial Days. Lee Massachusetts, Berkshire Home Publishers, 1993; Originally published in 1898.

he had a stern exterior, A.T. Smith was sensitive to the needs of the community. Alvin T. Smith and Abigail were very respected members on the community and totally trusted with their most sensitive needs. Many times he built coffins for the deceased, including at least one for an unnamed Indian. In February 2, 1852, when Mrs. Thomas Naylor passed away, daughter Margaret was taken in by Alvin and Abigail until Mr. Naylor was able to organize his household. It was eight months later, October 30, when Thomas Naylor “took his little Margaret home.”

Alvin would sometimes take Abigail to be with one of her lady friends for a few days, or sometimes they even came to stay with her. Of course, after one of these overnights, there was invariably a birth announcement. The pioneers had large families and Abigail did her part in helping with the deliveries.

The following is a description of Smith given by a contemporary teen age member of the Congregational Church, Margaret (Dolly) Hinman:

“Mr. Smith was a very stern man, keeping the Sabbath from sundown Sat. to Sundown Sunday & woe betide anyone who did not do likewise. He was a tall, lanky & angular New England Yankee with very bow legs. He was called “God Almighty” by the Indians who had often heard him pray to “God Almighty”. And what caught my youthful eye - 2 little braids of hair tied at the ends with thread over the bald head - but under his stern exterior was a kind heart for he & Mrs [Jane] Smith took into their home several girls whom they brought up & were always ready to help in church & school.”²⁹

Cyrus Walker, son of Rev. Elkanah and Mary Walker, an early student at Tualatin Academy, also had a description of A.T. Smith. “Rather brusque in his manner but kind-hearted, with a strenuous sense of what was right and just between man and man, and quite emotional at times, never praying without the tears rolling down his cheeks.”³⁰ He was recognized as a successful Sunday school teacher in the early church. He was said to be very friendly with the Indians and they saw him as a very godly man. William H. Gray, another contemporary of Smith adds this description; “...an honest and substantial farmer, a sincere and devout Christian, a man not forward in forming society, yet firm and stable in his convictions of right; liberal and generous to all objects of real worth; not easily excited, or ambitious of political preferment.”³¹

Families who settled the plains during this time period helped each other frequently with many projects. Often they would include a barn or house raising. Smith often helped others, but during the summer of 1843 he needed help of his own in raising his own barn.³² On May 15, 1843 he started in earnest on his barn and through June he spent 44 days cutting logs. On July 3, he squared his barn and began cutting board timber. With the help of Thomas Newbanks, he laid the foundation for his barn on July 18. For 18 days, alone at times and together with Newbanks’ help at other times, he continued to work on the barn until August 18. On August 22, he went around asking for help in raising the barn on the 24, but only four people showed up. On August 26, after finishing shocking his wheat, he invited the crew to help him with the barn the next Thursday and got a part of it raised. Again on August 31 and September 1 he got help. Following a temperance meeting on September 2, he again invited hands to help finish on next Tuesday, but again they didn’t finish. Smith split out some more boards and hauled some more timber during the next several weeks and apparently got the walls finished so that September 27, he started working at “covering” the barn, with the help of Thomas Newbanks and Harrison Pierce, declaring it finished on October 23, 1843. As 1845 concluded Geiger, Smith, and Clark all had new homes. The Congregational Church of the West Plains was established and meeting in members’ homes. Even though high waters had covered the flood plains, crops had been grown and harvested on the rich soil and were stored away.

Camp Meetings

Important diversions in A.T. Smith’s life were the camp-meetings which arrived each summer. The camp-meeting had a long tradition in the history of the Protestant religion in the New World and became especially important in the Oregon Country. The first camp-meeting in the Oregon Country is said to have taken place on the Tualatin Plains from July 12, through Sunday, July 16, 1843.³³ It was near what is now Hillsboro. Those in charge of the meeting and making preparations were Jason Lee, Gustavus Hines, H.K.W. Perkins, and Harvey Clark. Three of the four were prominent Methodist ministers and Harvey Clark was a Congregational minister. Since Harvey Clark was newly settled on the East Plains at this time he likely served as the local host. During the time of this meeting Alvin Smith was gathering timber to saw boards for his barn. But on the Sabbath his wife,

²⁹ Margaret “Dolly” Hinman files, Pacific University Archives.

³⁰ Bates, Henry Liberty. Ninetieth Anniversary of Forest Grove Congregational Church Foundation - 1845. A History in the Archives of the United Church of Christ, (Congregational), Forest Grove, Oregon. Written, October 19, 1935.

³¹ Gray, W. H. A History of Oregon, 1792-1849. Portland, Oregon: Harris & Holman, 1870, p.190.

³² During 1843 Alvin was also hauling logs for his 50X30 barn. (Letter of Alvin Smith to Harry Raymond, 7 Mar 1843. University of Oregon Special Collections Library, A.T. Smith file, A-111.) He had purchased some near-by property for the specific use of harvesting logs.

³³ Brosnan, Cornelius J. Jason Lee, Prophet of the New Oregon. New York: Macmillan Company, 1932, p. 204. & Hines, H.K., D.D. Missionary History of the Pacific Northwest. Portland, OR: Marsh Printing Company, 1899. p. 279.

Abigail, did attend the final day of the “*camp meeting at Clark’s*” while Alvin spent the day at home reading. No camp-meeting was recorded in his diary for 1844, but July 17, 1845, was the beginning of a five day meeting. Smith traveled to the East Plains with his family and went home each evening to return the next day.

The 1846 meeting was probably the first camp-meeting held on the West Plains. Smith became involved in the preparation. On June 8 and 9, he spent the days working on the camp site. On the 10th, he killed a beef for the meeting and, on the 11th, made final preparations and attended the first day of the 12-day meet. The locality is not specified but tradition of the local Congregational Church would indicate it was at Naylor’s grove, located at the west end outskirts of present Forest Grove. This was on the donation land claim of Thomas Naylor, near Smith (Gales) Creek and the camp site very close to the present location of what is locally known as the Patterson home. Diary notes indicate it is was a very successful meeting and he “*was moved by God as I never felt it before....*”

The year 1847 provided a number of camp meeting choices and Alvin Smith chose four. Early in June he sold pork to Mr. Barlow and attended a camp-meeting for several days. Barlow lived near Oregon City. On the way home, Alvin’s horses started running with the wagon, and he was hurt and, “*by the mercy of God was not killed.*” Two days at the end of June were spent attending a camp-meet on the East Plains, and in mid-July he attended a four-day meet on the Yamhill River. October 14 was spent working on the local campground. His diary records that the next four Sabbaths, he attended the meeting at Naylor’s camp ground.

The year 1848 provided the best documented camp-meeting. Alvin spent a day working on the grounds and butchered a beef for the occasion. On June 28 he moved to the grounds and stayed until July 3. The meeting was attended by George Atkinson, and his diary records the details. Atkinson was traveling with Rev. Lewis Thompson (a Presbyterian), and Rev. Ezra Fisher (a Baptist). Also in attendance were Reverends Brawley, Jolly, and Cornwall (all Presbyterians) and Reverends O.C. Hosford, William Roberts and W.C. Willson (Methodists). Reverend Spalding and Rev. Harvey Clark represented the Congregational denomination with Clark serving as the manager of the meeting. All the above mentioned took their turns to preach during the meeting.

Meals were at a common table which was kept “*repeatedly filled with good food.*” Crockery was in short supply but various “tins” were available. To copy a bit of the Atkinson diary, “*parents and children, many mothers with babes in their arms, young men, boys and girls, compose the assembly. Many appear rude [coarse, rough] yet all are orderly. They give attention. We hear no loud and disturbing mirth. None seem to have come to sport. We have a large tent of poles and boughs as a covering, with open sides for the most part, with full area of seats, a platform and seat and desk raised. A log house is near in wh[ic]h Mr. Braley lives and a small one of Mr nailor’s. There are one or two tents, a shed to sleep in and a cooking place. All is in rude style, yet comfortable.*”³⁴ Attendance on week days was one to two hundred persons. On the Sabbath there were from 300 to 400 gathered. The Smith diary continued to report his attendance at camp meetings through 1864. June and July were the active months.

In the time between his initial settlement in 1841 and the construction of his fine house in 1854-55 Smith lived on his Donation Land Claim and farmed.³⁵ He went to Portland regularly to trade goods and often helped others in the local community with their construction projects. For example in 1855, when he was trying to complete work on his new house, he also helped build a fort at Mr. William Catchings property, helped raise a barn for Joseph Davis, helped Geiger raise his house and helped Scoggin raise a barn. In addition to the example about Smith’s barn raising, Smith received help from others when he needed it. For example on November 30, 1854 Smith notes that he borrowed 2,500 shingles from Geiger *to be repaid in the same kind again.*³⁶

A.T. Smith Political Activities

William Gray organized a meeting on February 2, 1843, at the Oregon Institute on the Methodist Mission premises. This and a following series of meeting became known as the “The Wolf Meeting.” Smith’s diary records that he attended some of these meetings.

May 2, 1843, was the day of the famous Champoeg meeting when a majority voted to form a government. Records have been lost and a list of the voters put together from recollections and notes list Alvin T. Smith as one of those voting in favor. However,

³⁴ Rockwood, Ruth E. “Diary of Rev. George Henry Atkinson, D.D. 1847-1858. Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 40, Part III, p.269 fwd.

³⁵ His first log cabin was constructed in 1841. A second cabin was constructed several years later which was located on higher ground, to protect it from the floodwaters. Additional research is necessary to confirm their exact location on the DLC. January and February 1843 were very wet. That winter convinced him his home should be built on higher ground. On November 2, 1843 Smith “*worked at my wheat in the other house.*” This is the first mention of another house. Also, on November 8th he worked at making a new yard. Until January of 1844, he prepared timber for puncheons and started to lay a floor declaring it mostly finished on March 1, 1844. The diary entry on June 15, 1844: “*tended to moving to the other house.*” We know there were two log cabins built by Alvin T. Smith and that the second was built near the first but on higher ground to avoid flood waters.

³⁶ A.T. Smith files, Oregon Historical Society Library Archives, Portland, Oregon; Diary entry 11/30/1854.

in checking the date of the meeting for the formation of the government against the A.T. Smith diary we find him at home planting potatoes on his farm.

At the July 1843 meetings for formation of the Provisional Government, Messrs. L.H. Judson, A.T. Smith, Charles Compo, and Hugh Burns were elected as magistrates or Justices of the Peace. October 14, 1843, a \$500 bond was filed by Smith as Justice of the Peace. His oath of office was sworn before David Hill on May 10, 1843. Records kept at the Oregon State Archives begin in 1845, so evidence of activity of A. T. Smith acting as a Justice of the Peace has not been found. The records after 1845 do not include his name.

In the June 1851 elections, A.T. Smith ran for Probate Judge. The records of the Probate Court, October 6, 1851, verify his appointment.³⁷ In April 1855, Alvin was appointed as a Judge of Elections.

Children at the Smith Cabin: 1841-1854:

During the early 1840s Abigail Smith writes of having 9 to 10 people eating at her table every evening.³⁸ Many early pioneer families sought to have a safe place to leave their children while they set up homesteads of their own. The Smiths were a welcoming family, and it was especially attractive that the children would have an opportunity to be educated at the Tualatin Academy once it was established. Education was important to Smith. The Smith diary tells of his attendance at a “*school district meeting and organized the district.*” The date was October 25, 1851 and located in Cornelius. This was later, November 29, 1852, identified as District #2. West Union was school district #1, formed at West Union, June 2, 1851, by Rev. Horace Lyman. Hillsboro followed with district #7 and Forest Grove, #15.³⁹

Children Boarders at the Smith Cabin

Gale Children

The children of Joseph Gale were early lodgers at the Smith home. Joseph Gale and his wife, Eliza Eualouonomi, a Nez Perce woman said to have been a sister of Chief Joseph, led a busy life. After living five years as a fur trapper, Joseph Gale responded to the need of the Willamette Valley to develop a greater population of cattle and overcome the supply monopoly held by the Hudson’s Bay Company. In 1842 he was off for San Francisco in the newly constructed “Star of Oregon.” A letter of August 2, 1842, to Brother Smith pled his desire to have Abigail and Alvin care for his daughter Helen [Ellen] while he was gone. The Smith Diary shows that on August 21, 1842, Ellen Gale was left at the Smith home.⁴⁰

Alvin Smith was given use of 22 head plus nine that were left with Samuel Kelsey’s, including 19 females expected to calve as payment. Smith would keep the cattle for one year and take half the increase, and have the use of seven horses. Once again, on August 7, 1843, Gale left Ellen to be boarded with the Smith’s for two years, and this time also left his boy, Edward. The terms were one dollar for each week per child. The purpose for leaving them this time was not clear but the most apparent reason would be to place them where they could receive an education. Gale seemed particularly attentive to this need for his children. Before the two years were up Gale took Edward back but left Ellen with the Smiths. In December 1848 Gale wrote a letter to Smith which requested that Smith get Edward some clothes and send him to California along with Gale’s fiddle. He wanted the girls to remain with Smith until things changed.⁴¹ A letter from Abigail Smith to her cousin Jane Gray Ogden indicates the Smith’s had one girl seven years, two of her sisters and one brother for three years.⁴² In a letter of July 6, 1850, Gale prefers the children be kept at school, adding that, if A.T. Smith felt it best, “*I would wish Ellen to be taught to sing by note.*” Gale, at this time, had purchased property near Pueblo and was improving it. He closed his letter thinking it impossible when he would bring his children “*for this is no place for them.*”

³⁷ Probate Registers Book- 1849-1852. Pg 103. Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon. (Alvin T. Smith Papers. Oregon Historical Society Library, MSS 8.)

³⁸ Smith, Abigail Raymond. A letter to her cousin, Jane Gray Ogden, 24 Feb 1853. Manuscript collection of Oregon Historical Society - Mss 8, Smith, Abigail Raymond - Personal Letters.

³⁹ “Fern Hill, Cornelius Tidbits Recalled by Lester Moobery.” Forest Grove New Times, October 5, 1972.

⁴⁰ Gale’s trip to California was a success, trading the schooner for 350 cows. Gale enlisted a group of forty-two men to herd about twelve hundred and fifty head of cattle, 600 mares, horses and mules, and nearly three thousand sheep that had been assembled. The trip across country with this group was started on the 14th of May, 1843 and in seventy-five days they were in the Willamette Valley. (Gale, Joseph. “The Schooner ‘Star’, An Account of Her Construction and Voyage to California.”)

⁴¹ We know names of eight children, three adopted, of Joseph Gale; Ellen, Edward b. 1838, Susan b. 1840, Margaret b. 1843, Mary b. 1845, Savina b. 1847, Lucretia b. 1853, and Clara. Lucretia was likely born while in California. She married a Simpson and later wrote the memoirs of her father. Ellen became the mother of Mrs. Miles Poindexter, wife of the United States senator and minister to Peru. (Dobbs) Other sources say Gales’ wife was pregnant with their sixth child when they left for California and that one son was bludgeoned to death while guarding his father’s hay stack in California. (Graydon, Charlotte, “Early Governor, Joseph Gale, Man of Many Interests.” The Oregonian 21 Mar 1983.) Birth dates are from the University of Oregon Special Collections library - A.T. Smith file, A-111.

⁴² Mss 8, Oregon Historical Society, op cit.

On September 21, 1851, Joseph Gale and A.T. Smith settled their accounts and Gale was again headed for California, this time taking the children with him.⁴³

Robert Newell's Boys

Robert Newell left his two boys, William and Marcus, on March 10, 1843, to live with Abigail and Alvin Smith for a proposed two years. These were children Newell shared with his Nez Perce wife, Kitty, sister of Joe Meek's wife. In a letter written March 5, 1843 to "Dear Brother" [probably Philo Littlejohn] Smith explains that Newell had "*let out his place to Polack*" and planned to go to the mountains for about one and a half years.⁴⁴ Several other things were happening in "Doc" Newell's life at about this time that may have changed his plans. During 1843 Newell was active in setting up the Oregon Provisional Government with acceptance and implementation of the organic laws. The Smith diary shows that Newell picked his boy up on January 13, 1844. It was also in 1844 that he left his Hillsboro home to acquire land at Champoege to live for nearly twenty years. In 1845 his wife Kitty died.⁴⁵

The Owens Girls

Although Abigail was kept busy caring for children, she never had any of her own. The closest thing to that was adoption of Robert Owens daughters. Following the death of their father, February 1, 1846, the uncle of the children, Thomas Owens, was unofficially made guardian, May 8, 1847.⁴⁶

On November 23, 1847, Smith stayed at home to write out the indenture of Ellen [Margaret] and Catherine Owens and the indenture was made official on the following day:⁴⁷

*Witnesseth that Ellen Owens & Catherine Owens daughters of Robert Owens late of Oregon deceased. Aged, Ellen six years the 3rd of the present month & Catherine three years the 22nd of last October to by their acct & consent bind themselves apprentices to Alvin T. Smith and Abigail Smith his wife to be by them or under their direction brought up taught and supported in the manner proper and customary for girls in the sphere of life - until they shall attain the age of eighteen years which will be Ellen on the 3rd day of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine and Catherine on the 22nd day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty two. Said Ellen & Catherine agrees & promises to obey all the lawful commands of said Smith & wife and to conduct themselves at all times in an obedient and respectful manner towards them - and, [Alvin & Abigail Smith] to provide for them in sickness and health all necessary support board and clothing and to cause them to be properly taught the useful branches of housewifery and to give them from time to time such opportunities for schooling and Education as is customary for girls of their age in the common walks of life in this country & to use their best endeavors to have them trained in virtuous and [Following page not found]"*⁴⁸

Other Boarders

On March 29, 1845, Charity Mills moved into the Smith cabin for a short time. She was the daughter of John Mills, with whom Smith spent some time repairing bridges as well as other chores. He possibly had a grist mill. William Sebring brought his three children to the Smith's to stay until July 9, 1845.⁴⁹ For this he paid A.T.'s going rate of one dollar per week for each child. On September 26th of the same year, three 1845 emigrants found haven at his home. No names were mentioned. On May 21, 1847, Mr. Owensby brought his nieces to Alvin Smith, to stay until they were each of them 14 years of age. In the words of the diary,

⁴³ The Joseph Gale family lived in California for some time, then went to the Walla Walla valley. From there they moved to Eagle Creek, east of Baker City, Oregon, where he built a home and spent the remainder of his life. Joseph Goff Gale died on December 13, 1881. (Dobbs, Caroline C. Men of Champoege. A Record of the Lives of the Pioneers Who Founded the Oregon Government. Portland, OR: Metropolitan Press, 1932. & Joseph Goff Gale was born 29 Apr 1807, near Washington D.C., the child of Joseph Gale and Mary Goff. (References to birth date vary from 1800 to 1807.)

⁴⁴ University of Oregon Archives, Special Collections, A-111.

⁴⁵ Dobbs, Caroline C. Op. cit. p.150.

⁴⁶ The probate court, in July, 1851, recognized that there was no entry of this appointment made in the records and ordered it to be registered at that time. (Probate Court Records, Book #1 - 1847-1852, pg 42. Oregon State Archives, Salem, Ore.) At this same time money from the estate of Robert Owens was to be paid to the heirs and turned over to the guardian of the minors.

⁴⁷ (The parents, Robert and Ellen Owens, were both deceased. Ellen died in Missouri in the fall or winter of 1844-45. Robert, born in Wales and a U.S. citizen since 1836, died intestate about February 1, 1846. Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims, Volume II; Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, 1959.) William Geiger, Jr. was appointed as administrator of the estate.

⁴⁸ A.T. Smith file of the University of Oregon Special Collections Library, A-111

⁴⁹ Land records show William Sebring as taking a provisional land claim in Polk County, personal occupancy 29 Dec 1845. He settled his claim on 20 Nov 1850. On 4 Jul 1845 he married Martha at Oregon City. This was just 5 days prior to leaving 3 children with Smiths. Unless there was another William Sebring, this would imply a previous marriage. His new bride, Martha, died in May 1849, leading to another marriage on 9 Jun 1854 to Sarah M. Simpson. Genealogical Forum of Oregon. Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims and Oregon Donation Land Claims, Vol. II.

“to be kept and managed as our own children.” Owensby must have been the neighbor who helped A.T. “alter” his 15 hogs and the next day mated his horse to Smith’s sorrel mare. There were several return trips with the mare to the Owensby farm. Smith later shared his mower with this neighbor.

John Terwilliger arrived at the Smith home on May 3, 1848, to board while attending school.⁵⁰ He was to work for his board. On September 6, 1848, Alvin Smith went to Portland and returned with Calvin B. Green to keep until “his mother returns from California next Spring.” If she never returned, her wish was that the Smith’s keep him as their own.

The Spalding’s lived for a short time in the Smith home before moving to a cabin which soon after became a part of Tabitha Brown’s boarding house.⁵¹ In December 1853, Rev. Henry Harmon Spalding returned with his son. Young Henry was in need of furthering his education and he would live and board with Alvin and Abigail while attending the Tualatin Academy.

The emigration of 1852 brought Henry (Harry) Chapman Raymond Forest Grove on October 10, 1852. He was a nephew of Abigail; son of her brother Ebenezer. Henry Raymond lived with his aunt and uncle Smith for three years, working on what he described as the A.T. Smith farm and dairy.⁵² Henry did chores about the home and Alvin “let out” his cows to him for half the butter and cheese and gave him four cows for one year.

Waterways, Trails, Fords, Bridges and Roadways

The two important waterways that were a part of the Smith Donation Land Claim were the Tualatin River and Gales Creek. The Gales Creek crossed through the west end of the property. The Tualatin River touched the SW and SE borders, slightly penetrating across the property boundaries in one place. Gales Creek joined with the Tualatin River at the southern apex of his pentagonal shaped land claim. In the early years, Gales Creek was referred to and shown on maps as Smith’s Fork or Smith’s Tualatin River and the main stem of the Tualatin River was the South Fork. Beaver Creek carried the name, North Branch of Smith River.⁵³

A.T. Smith pursued the operation of a ferry.⁵⁴ His ferry was described as “pretty much a row boat.” In the 1850s, springs were running more freely, the water tables were high, and the rivers were more swollen. The rivers of the area set population groups apart because of the difficulty of crossing. As bridges were built or ferries managed, so were the traffic movements directed, and stores and other population services were encouraged along these routes.

In diary entries, A.T. Smith refers several times to doing work on *his* bridge which likely replaced his “ferry” on the Tualatin River. The Smith bridge was along the SE border of his donation land claim, but apparently closely adjacent to, rather than on, his land and about a half mile, as the river flows, downstream from where Gales Creek joins.⁵⁵ This provided access to Forest Grove for people traveling to and from Fern Hill as well as the western slopes of Chehalem Mountain and Wapato Lake, on their way south toward Gaston and beyond. The road leading NW from the bridge passed through the Alvin Smith donation land claim, passing by his home and store on the way to Forest Grove.⁵⁶

The earliest “roadways” followed the Indian trails which had also been followed by the early fur traders. Two important trails developed between the Columbia River, Sauvies Island area, and the East Plains. The Hudson’s Bay Company was utilizing the East Tualatin Plains to raise their dairy herds. A trail, named after Hudson’s Bay employee, James Logie, started from opposite Sauvie Island, crossed the Tualatin Mountains, and wound down to an Indian village, Panaxtin, at Glencoe on the Tualatin Plains. Several times Smith mentions using this trail to take stock over the mountain. Another trail, called the Old Hudson’s Bay Trail, began near Linnton on the Willamette River also wound over the Tualatin Mountains, approximating what is now called the Germantown road. It ended up on the East Tualatin Plains near West Union. From there, those early travelers going south would follow along the Indian trail to the Dilley area, make their river crossing over the Tualatin River at a rocky bottomed area on the future William O. Gibson claim, SW of the Smith border. From there the trail led along the north edge of the Chehalem range of

⁵⁰ Hines, H.K. Illustrated History of Oregon. Chicago, Illinois: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1893.

⁵¹ Smith, Jane Kinney. “Recollections of Grandma Brown.” Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 3, pg 289. In the early fall of 1848 Spalding received a call to move to the banks of the Calapooya River, a tributary of the Willamette, to open a school. This became North Brownsville and served as his home for the next ten years. (Drury, Clifford Merrill. Henry Harmon Spalding, Pioneer of Old Oregon. Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1936, pgs.352 & 370.)

⁵² Hines, Rev. H.K. An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon. op cit.

⁵³ Benson, Robert L., op cit, Martin, George E. and Lawrence R. Fick. A Road in the Wilderness, The Salem to Astoria Military Road. Forest Grove, Oregon: Oregon Department of Forestry, 2002.

⁵⁴ Bourke, Paul and Donald DeBats. Washington County Politics and Community in Antebellum America, Baltimore & London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995. Pg.293.)

⁵⁵ Benson, Robert L. “The Tualatin River, Mile by Mile.” Land of Tuality, Washington County Oregon, Vol. III. Washington County Historical Society, Hillsboro, Oregon, 1978. Page 43.

⁵⁶ Mooberry, Lester C. The Gray Nineties. Portland, Oregon: Binfords & Mort, 1957. Pg.101.

hills and skirted them to continue on south to Wapato Lake.

The rocky bottomed Tualatin River crossing, may be that of Jason Lee when he left Fort Vancouver to look for a settling site, would be convenient for those coming from East Plains.⁵⁷ On March 7th, 1843, Alvin T. Smith wrote to Philo Littlejohn who at the time was at Lapwaih with Henry Spalding.⁵⁸ Giving Littlejohn a report of his activities he wrote: “*We are improving the plains some. The people have bridged 3 of the creeks and mr Douthey⁵⁹ has 3 bridges across it. We can now go to the falls without having to swim creeks.*”

On June 28, 1844, Secretary of Oregon, J.E. Long, wrote a letter to Alvin T. Smith notifying him that, along with Adam Hewett and James Waters, he had been appointed to “*view out a road leading from the Willamette Falls to the Tualatin Plains.*”⁶⁰

In 1845 the Provisional Government passed a resolution to locate a road from Sauvies Island to connect with [Peter] Smith’s Ferry on the Yamhill River.⁶¹ It was planned to provide for troop movements from Fort Vancouver to Yamhill County and was the first recorded road survey in Washington County. In 1852 a petition was made to the Territorial Legislature to have this route built as a road, now known as Cornelius Pass.⁶² In 1850 a territorial Road was planned leading from the Tualatin Plains to the Yam Hill Falls and a full routed description can be accessed.⁶³

Portland merchants and Tualatin Valley farmers looked for ways of improving the promising Tanner Creek route [Canyon Road] which began discussions of a plank road, and in 1851 stock was sold and a beginning made but winter washouts delayed progress.

Keeping local roads open became a critical problem for the early settlers. The winter storms and early spring floods routinely took out their bridges requiring constant repair, a problem the A.T. Smith diaries substantiate. Neighbors helped each other to repair the old and to build new crossings. While the Territorial Government was trying to develop roads, the counties were making some plans of their own. 1848 was the beginning of a serious county road-building initiative.⁶⁴ Road districts were established. In line with this, on October 6, 1851, the probate court found it expedient to appoint Alvin T. Smith as a commissioner to secure the bridge at Hillsborough “*in case Mr. Tucker fails*”⁶⁵ For travel beyond the Plains, one route followed the Chehalem Mountain trail to Lafayette or Dayton where a steamer could boarded on the Yamhill River. The Yamhill River connected with the Willamette River and on north to the Columbia River or south to Salem and beyond. Going on to Portland and the Columbia River involved stopping at Canemah, just above the Willamette Falls, with a portage to Oregon City where steamers reloaded to progress on down the river.

Indian Uprising in 1854

The Walla Walla Indian Council of 1845 was not well accepted by the Yakima Indians their dissatisfaction lingered and eventually several citizens were murdered in the Puget Sound area. In October 1854, the Indian Agent at The Dalles reported that nineteen emigrants had been killed at the last report and troops were being sent out to subdue them. The number was soon upped to thirty.⁶⁶ It was reported that some of the Indians around Wapato Lake were becoming restless and threatened to do harm to the settlers.⁶⁷

Alvin Smith attended a meeting of citizens on October 18, 1855 to consider building a fort on William Catching’s property. Several days later Mary Walker reported in her diary that work was being done at Catching’s and that on Sunday the Deacons and Ministers were all at work.⁶⁸ From October 21 thru 24, A.T. Smith worked on this project. An open ditch was dug on the

⁵⁷ Benson, Robert L., Op. cit.

⁵⁸ The A.T. Smith papers, University of Oregon, Special Collections Library - A 111.

⁵⁹ William Doughty, DLC 3815, 2S, 3W, sect 17, 18 19, 20. Near Laurelwood at the base of the Chehalem Mountains.

⁶⁰ Accessions, Oregon Historical Quarterly, Volume VI.

⁶¹ Carlton Elementary School Bicentennial Club, Reflections of Carlton, Glass-Dahlstrom Printers, 1976; pgs. 6 & 58.

⁶² Paper in the Roads file at the Washington County Historical Society Research Library.

⁶³ Alvin T. Smith papers. Oregon Historical Society Library, MSS 8.

⁶⁴ Inventory of the County Archives of Oregon, No. 34, Washington County. Prepared by the Oregon Historical Records Survey Division of Professional and Service Projects, Work Projects Administration. Nov. 1940. p.19.

⁶⁵ Records of the Probate Court, book #1, 1847-1852, found at the Oregon State Archives, Salem Oregon.

⁶⁶ The diaries of Methodist circuit rider, James Gerrish.

⁶⁷ Wilkes, L.E. By An Oregon Pioneer Fireside. Fairfield, WA: Ye Galleon Press, 1941, p.114.

⁶⁸ Walker Diaries in Huntington Library, Huntington Beach, CA.

University campus, surrounding Old College Hall as a defense from attack. A lookout guard was set in the cupola for several nights. The ditches around the college building lay open for many more months.

A.T. Smith's House and Farm: 1855-1874

In 1852, Alvin Smith began to look forward in earnest to the construction of a frame house. He went to see Mr. Patrick Cain, a local sawmill operator, for the lumber for his house. Cedar was priced at \$25 per thousand, fir and other lumber at \$15 per thousand; cedar shingles at \$5 per thousand. Smith apparently found the terms satisfactory because he visited Cain at the sawmill on July 17th to make a contract to haul lumber to his building site. The contract called for a two-year-old colt and the *"use of 200 dollars for 30 days from this date."*

In June 1854, Smith was getting timbers out for his new home. He commenced building the frame on July 3rd. On September 7 & 8, he worked on the foundations. Two days later the two-story part was raised to place. He worked all through September and finished shingling the two-story part on October 13. On November 1, he raised what he called the lean-to part of the house. November and December were dedicated to the building with the roof completed on December 9. January 1855, he worked off and on, taking time off from the house for spring and summer farming obligations. In August and September he again noted working on the house. On December 13, 1855, he paid E.D. Whitlow what was due him for working on the house since Spring; such things as making a mantelpiece and stopping roof leaks. On March 21, 1856, Smith took time out to build a fence around his "new Yard." It was the last entry in the diary concerning the new house until September 16, 1857, when he hired Mr. Larson to *"lay my seller (sic) wall."*

On October 5, 1857, he brought home a bookcase which cost 75 dollars. Later that month, October 24, Mr. Young worked at the cellar. October 27 through November 7, work continued on the cellar, hauling stone and sand for the job. On November 28, Smith again worked on the basement and hired John Stewart & William Wills for four months at 15 dollars per month each, presumably for work on the house. On December 1, he brought a load of poles from the woods and proceeded to work on a shed for the next four days.

It is not known if Abigail ever had the opportunity to enjoy the new house. Without the chimney completed it would have been uncomfortable during the winter of '57-'58, and Alvin did not set up a stove until November 1858. With the death of his wife in April 1858, the diary becomes silent about the new home until May 21, 1858, when he put down his chores and retired to the *"new house for supper."* Smith does not mention when he made the final move from the log cabin to this new frame home.

Work continued on brickwork for the chimney and the cellar through October 1858. Mr. Philips was paid 45 dollars for brick at 10 dollars per 1000. Mr. Young began facing the cellar wall with brick. The basement ceiling shows exposed 12 X 12 hand hewn oak beams supporting the first floor. The heavy construction of the cellar may have served several purposes.

It appears that two fireplaces provided heat with floor registers allowing the heat to reach the upper story. The attic was floored and left open. The first floor was designed for versatility with partition doors opening up to expose the parlor and sitting room as one large room useful for group meetings. Cedar boards were utilized to create fourteen, four panel doors.⁶⁹ Mortise and tenon joints used in support construction are witness to the early carpenter training of A. T. Smith and his attention to detail.⁷⁰ The house seemed to be completed by November 5, 1858 based upon diary references.

Soon after the house was constructed the following assessment was made of his property:⁷¹ 640 acres, 50 in cultivation; numerous horses and livestock;⁷² 1 clock, cost 10 dollars; 1 note on hand of 70 dollars; 12 dollars in cash; Taxable property in 1856 assessed at \$9,342.00. Through 1860 his land holdings are listed as his original donation land claim of 640 acres. 1861 showed an increase to 960 acres, and in 1862, 1,600 acres. It stayed at this level through 1869, the latest records available, except for the addition of some town lots in Hillsboro and Forest Grove. Among his land holdings was a near-by plot of forested property which he maintained to harvest logs for building.⁷³

⁶⁹ "Alvin Smith was Areas' First Businessman." *Forest Grove News Times*, April 25, 1984.

⁷⁰ The National Register of Historical Properties lists the house as a fine example of the Classic Revival style, but with certain unique properties. They point out the side hall plan used, rather than the more common central hall, and the gabled end which is presented as the facade.

⁷¹ University of Oregon Special Collections Library, A. T. Smith file, A-111.

⁷² 5 Mares. 1/2 Spanish, One unbroken; 1 American horse, 12 years old; 1 Gelding, 4 years old; 2 Geldings, 3 years old unbroken; 2 Geldings, 2 years old, unbroken; 2 mares, 2 years old unbroken; 2 mares, 1 year old unbroken; 1 horse, 1 year old unbroken; 2 yoke of oxen; 2 steers, 4 years old, Spanish origin; 13 steers, 3 years old, Spanish origin; 27 steers & heifers, 2 years old, Spanish origin; steers & Heifers 1 year old, Spanish origin; 12 cows, 1 year old; 2 timerian bulls, 1 year old; 70 Sheep, 1 year old; 20 hogs that will average 125 lbs each; 1 wagon heavy horse; 1 wagon light horse. Also about 22 head of cows in Doc. Wm. Adams care; about 15 cows with Mr. Fletcher.

⁷³ Probate Court Registers at the Oregon State Archives, Book #1, 1847-1852, show a sale to Alvin T. Smith of Lots No. 3 & 4 in Block 6, Hillsborough, from a public auction.

Smith's Role in the Community: 1855-1874

As Smith had when he only had a cabin for his home, when new settlers came to the area, it was A.T. Smith who continued to give them temporary work to recoup their resources and helped them find suitable properties to claim; and when they were ready to build their homes, he was again there to give them assistance. It is true that he was also a businessman. When he loaned money, which he did, interest was figured. Those who worked his land also paid by dividing the profit.

As a member of the community, his main role was that of a farmer. With good management he had enough to provide for himself as well as some to trade and barter and sell. The early community of the settlers had very little coinage. There was a unique bookkeeping system kept, often involving the Hudson's Bay Company, that allowed them to build up credits and debts without exchange of coins.

There is evidence that Alvin Smith operated a store or a trading post in the community. The first specific mention of a store in his diary is on September 18, 1857. "*Cut out apart of a road to my store*". Again, on October 13, 14, 16, & 22, he worked on the road to the store.⁷⁴ Long before he improved the road to his store, the A.T. Smith grocery was providing farm produce to the public. Letters available at the Oregon Historical Society give a sample of some of his dealings.⁷⁵

On January 5, 1856, Alvin Smith went to a meeting in Forest Grove, called for the purpose of presenting a petition to the Legislature to get a charter for a plank road from Portland to the Grove. This road had been under sporadic construction for some time, though never successfully completed. It was critical to the growth of Portland as a port city and to prosper Portland transport interests required the agricultural products of the Tualatin Valley for shipment to other areas. The farmers of the Tualatin Valley were just as much in need of getting their products to the port and more lucrative markets. A legislative session of 1855-56, at the time of Smith's petition, authorized a new company to be chartered. This was called the Portland and Tualatin Plains Road Company. It was probably the early 1900s before a truly serviceable road was accomplished.⁷⁶

Boarders at the New Smith House

Just as he had done when he only had a cabin, Smith opened his new home to boarders who needed a place to stay. In December 1856, Owen Barton and William Hamilton came to live, work for board, and go to school. A third boarder also arrived at this time, Sidney Harper Marsh, who had been hired in April 1854 as president of Pacific University. When he arrived to serve the University, the Academy building was not totally complete. The two ground level rooms were being used as classrooms but the upper level still had work to be done. Tradition has it that President Marsh slept upstairs on the unfinished floors and helped to nail down the boards. The obituary of Jane Smith, Alvin's second wife, indicates that after they arrived from Connecticut following their marriage in late 1869, Sidney Harper Marsh lived with them in A.T. Smith's frame house.

December 1857 brought the two oldest daughters of William Wakeman Raymond of Clatsop County to the table of Abigail Smith. In 1857, he was serving as a sub Indian Agent beyond The Dalles.⁷⁷ Alvin Smith had numerous dealings with him concerning livestock trades.

After the danger from the Indians had passed, the Joslyns who had been burned out in the Indian conflict arrived at Forest Grove. On April 27, 1858, Erastus Joslyn came to Alvin Smith to "*take my place*" for one year. After that year, the Joslyns returned to White Salmon where Erastus Joslyn became an incorporator of the Wasco Woolen Mills in The Dalles and they became Charter members of The Dalles Congregational Church.⁷⁸

Alvin had agreed to let his place to Mr. Chester Sloan, March 12, 1861. This ended on March 14, 1862 when Sloan moved. Calves and apples were divided and Smith lamented in his diary that "*I was left alone as I never was before.*" He then agreed, in March 1864, to lease his place to his son-in-law, Edward Goodell, for two years on the same condition as Sloan kept it.

⁷⁴ Margaret Hinman also mentions his store in her notes, wondering what he might have to sell. (Margaret Hinman file. Pacific University Archives. Margaret Hinman was the granddaughter of 1844 Pioneer, Alanson Hinman, by whom she was raised. She graduated from Pacific University in 1891. She was very interested in the early history of Oregon and an enthusiastic listener to her grandfather's stories. Returning from Turkey after 28 years as a Missionary, she became active in the Washington County and Oregon Historical Societies.

⁷⁵ Alvin T. Smith papers, Oregon Historical Society Library, MSS-8.

⁷⁶ "Plank Roads," Argus, November 24, 1927; File of Roads, Washington County Historical Society Research Library.

⁷⁷ Miller, Emma Gene. Clatsop County, Oregon, A History. Portland, Oregon: Binford & Mort, 1958.

⁷⁸ D.M.C., Historian. "Erastus S. Joslyn and Wife of White Salmon." History of Skamania County. A locally published history.

A.T. Smith Post Master

In December 1845, Twality District was re-named Twality County. In 1849, when Oregon became a territory, Twality County was re-named Washington County. What became the Hillsboro was originally called the East Plains and Forest Grove the West Plains. The first post office in Washington County was at Linn City, across the Willamette River from Oregon City. It was established on January 8, 1850.⁷⁹

The first post office formed within our present boundaries was established on February 1, 1850, and known as Tualatin, with David Hill the first postmaster. The office was on his claim. Hill died suddenly on May 9, 1850, at age 41 and Abraham Sulger, a local store keeper, became postmaster in August with the town name becoming Hillsborough, in honor of David Hill. This station was discontinued on January 6, 1852.⁸⁰

On December 23, 1850, A.T. Smith gave his bond to become the postmaster of the Tualatin Post Office as, "Agent, Special Agency, Post Office Department, O.T." On March 14, 1851 the name was changed to Tuality Plains and the office located on the West Plains with A.T. Smith as the postmaster. A section of Preston's Sectional & County Map of Oregon and Washington west of Cascade Mountains, by J. W. Trutch and G.W. Hyde, 1856 (OHS Cols.) shows the Hillsborough P.O. south of the town and near the Tualatin River. The Forest Grove Office is south of the town and on the Smith Fork, shortly before it joins the Tualatin River.⁸¹ This office was discontinued on January 6, 1853, and A.T. Smith was quickly appointed as postmaster of the immediately re-established and re-named office, once again the Tualatin Post Office.⁸² The commission was issued by James Campbell, *Postmaster General of The U.S. of A.*, to Alvin T. Smith as Postmaster at Tualatin, Washington County, April 9, 1853.⁸³ In 1851 the community was officially named Forest Grove and the Post Office eventually followed suit, but perhaps not until as late as 1858. On July 2, 1859, the Alvin Smith diary records: "*delivered up the Post Office to Joseph C. Raffety the new Postmaster of Forest Grove.*"

While Smith was the postmaster, the mail was arriving from Portland once a week and outgoing mail was picked up on the return route from Lafayette. Alvin T. Smith did not operate the post office by himself, Abigail took an oath to act as deputy.⁸⁴ Waldo Emerson Raines was logging in the Forest Grove area from early 1900's and in 1920 he chose a mill site at Carnation, leasing land from the Southern Pacific Railroad. On August 21, 1929, the mill burned to the ground and had to be re-built. Raines purchased seven acres of land and buildings from the closed Carnation Milk Company and eventually, as the mill prospered, the green chain line was extended into this property. Men hired to clean out the blackberry vines reported finding two old log cabin buildings buried deep in the brush.

Son of the mill owner, Ralph Raines (still living), tells that one on the higher ground was empty except for a sorting bench on the East wall and a rack of pigeon holes suitable for sorting mail on the West wall. He believes that this was the old post office of A.T. Smith. This was further confirmed when Pete Dyke, a later owner of the Smith frame home, found a picture in the rafters of the attic of his house, showing these two cabins.⁸⁵

Passing of Three Important People, Spring of 1858

On March 24, 1858, Harvey Clark passed away. Two days later the funeral was held and on April 1, Alvin took Abigail to see Mrs. Clark. On the morning of April 16, after finishing his morning chores, he came to the breakfast table and was nearly finished eating when Abigail complained of her eyes and her numb leg. She said she "*felt very strange and thought she was going to die.*" Alvin stayed with her through the day and night and the following day when "*her spirit took its flight to the one who gave it.*"

Abigail was buried the following day, April 18, 1858. About 5 o'clock in the evening, Alvin followed her casket to the burial ground. Since Harvey Clark was buried in the Campus Cemetery in March of that year, it seems possible that it was at this same burying ground that Abigail was interred, or it may have been a farm site burial. On Sunday the 25th, Elkanah Walker preached her funeral sermon. On June 20, 1859, A.T. Smith took time to build a fence "*around the grave of my departed companion.*"

⁷⁹ McArthur, Lewis A. "Earliest Oregon Post offices as Recorded at Washington." *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol 41, 1940, p.61

⁸⁰ Lepschat, May Ringle. "Early Settlements of Washington County." *Land of Tuality* Vol III, pg 36. & McArthur, Lewis A. & Lewis L. McArthur. *Oregon Geographic Names* 7th edition, 2003. OHS Press., pg 468.

⁸¹ Newsom, David. *The Western Observer, 1805-1882*. Portland, Oregon, Oregon Historical Society, 1972,

⁸² "Oregon Territorial P.O.'s and Handstamped Postal Marking." *Oregon Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 60, 1959, p.486.

⁸³ "Accessions" *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol VI, p.232.

⁸⁴ Alvin T. Smith papers, Oregon Historical Society Library, MSS 8.

⁸⁵ A copy of this photo has been made available to Friends of Historic Forest Grove.

Abigail Raymond Smith was a member of the Maternal Society of West Tualatin Plains, organized on April 24, 1850. She was not just a member; she was First Directress. The women were organized to: 1. strengthen home life; 2. see that children were baptized; 3. instruct mothers in the proper behavior of their children. It was the duty of the First Directress to oversee the general supervision and concerns of the association.

On November 20, 1860, A.T. Smith attended a meeting of the Union Cemetery Association and that same day took Mrs. Clark to the ground to select a lot. On the following day, November 21, he attended the sale of lots on the Union Cemetery grounds. It would have been following this period that her husband, Rev. Harvey Clark was re-interred at this cemetery. It may also be the time that Abigail Smith was moved if she was not originally buried on this property. Both Harvey Clark and Abigail Smith now have burials at what is known as Mountain View Memorial Gardens in Forest Grove. If Abigail was, in fact, originally buried on the Pacific University Campus cemetery or on the farm, she was later moved to this final site.

The other death that is worthy of mention was that of Tabitha Moffatt Brown who passed away in Salem Oregon on May 4, 1858, three days after her 78th birthday. Smith makes reference to her and her family many times over the years in his diary.⁸⁶

Smith's Travels

In 1861, after his house had been built and his first wife passed away and his adopted daughter's married, Smith made a trip with John Griffin as his travel partner. The farm was leased out to Mr. Sloan, and on July 30, 1861, he wrote in his diary that he was preparing for what he called a trip to the mountains. As he started his trip, he "*tended to paying his bills*" and stopped in Portland for supplies and to take care of further obligations. Smith and Griffin made their first campsite with Philip Foster, a pioneer of 1843, and part owner of the Barlow Toll Gate and took a land claim in Clackamas county in 1847, SW of present day Sandy.⁸⁷ This trip included a visit to the site of the old Whitman Mission Station where they met Cushing Eells who was farming the former Whitman mission property. When John Griffin and Alvin Smith arrived at Waiilatpu, they found work to be done helping Eells with the wheat harvest. Henry Spalding was living on the Touchet River near Waiilatpu, and so Smith and Griffin made themselves useful to his cause.⁸⁸ A. T. Smith then visited his former mission assignment on the Clearwater at Lapwahi where he had helped Spalding with the Nez Perce Indians. Visiting the inhabitants of the different Indian lodges, they found them to be very favorable toward their former teacher and wished Smith to return to them. Toward that end they talked with the agent about the possibility of his appointment but it went no further.

In 1866 A.T. Smith went for a trip to the east coast to visit his family which lasted over three years. While Smith was away his children watched over the farm. John Griffin accompanied him on the trip, but they took their separate paths when they disembarked.⁸⁹ Alvin spent his first days in getting reacquainted with his siblings, spending weekends in Branford, Connecticut with his youngest sister, Nancy. He also made a trip to Quincy, Illinois where he visited with his brother Caleb. He managed a side trip to Manhattan, Kansas, to visit his second oldest brother, Samuel. While Alvin was in New Haven, he continued to correspond with his daughters back home. In response to one of his letters, Horace and Ellen Miner wrote to him from East Portland, August 19th 1866, addressed to "Kind Father." They expressed an interest in his health and indicated this was their fourth letter to him. Described are two children, little Alvin and Anna, who "*wonder when grandpa will be home .*" Horace was in the building trade and, due to lack of business, considered branching out to repairing wagons. Ellen and Kitty (sister Catherine) went out to the A.T. Smith home while Horace was plastering their Portland home, but "*it just didn't seem right with everyone gone .*"⁹⁰

While Smith was away the west side railroad was surveyed just behind Smith's buildings and on to Harpers; from Hillsboro it crosses "*below new bridge and across near where we built first slough bridge and on straight line 1/2 mile south of base line till it strikes Clarks line at the point of timber below Hinmans then bends so as to go back of our house, etc.*" Alvin T. Smith returned to Oregon until November 12, 1869, 3 years 7 months and 5 days after he left.

Second Marriage, Return to Forest Grove and Retirement

Alvin proposed marriage on October 10, 1869, and the service performed on October 14. The October 14, 1869 diary entry: "*Overhauled & regulated some of my things & in the evening called on Jane Maria Averill. We decided to be married next Tuesday the 19th day of the month at 2 P.M., Providence willing.*"

⁸⁶ "Tabitha Moffat Brown - A Pilgrim in the Wide World" by Mary Jo Morelli, December 2005.

⁸⁷ Hartman, Elizabeth and Marie Schartz. *Sandy Pioneers, Early Settlers and Barlow Road Days*. Sandy, OR: St. Paul's Press, 1993, p.20.

⁸⁸ Parsley, Linda Flathers. *Dancing With Mules*. Leavenworth, Washington, Alpensee Publishing, 200, p.28. Between 1859-1862 Spalding and his family lived in the Prescott area on the Touchet River where he held camp meetings at his home.

⁸⁹ The diary notes are very faint and difficult to read concerning shipboard activities. The diaries are on small tablets written in pencil and on record at the Oregon Historical Society Library, MSS 8. Margaret (Peg) Gilbert made transcriptions, from which this is written.

⁹⁰ University of Oregon Special Collection Library, A.T. Smith file. A-111

Jane was the daughter of Samuel Averill and Betsy Blackstone Averill of Branford, New Haven, Connecticut. She was born on August 27, 1837 in Branford, Connecticut. Jane would be 34 years, 9 months and 10 days younger than A.T. Smith. Jane was a native of Branford, Connecticut as were her father, Samuel and her grandfather, Daniel. Alvin had already purchased two tickets for San Francisco (and paid \$306 for them) to travel to the west coast by train. They arrived at Portland by steamer on November 12 going immediately to daughter, Ellen Margaret Minor's home. It wasn't until Thanksgiving Day, November 19th, that Ed Goodell came for them to return to Forest Grove. This would be the daughter's first chance to meet Jane Averill Smith who was only four years older than Smith's adopted daughter Ellen.

Smith's oldest adopted daughter, Ellen and her husband Horace Minor had three children; Annie, Alvin and Catherine.⁹¹ Smith's younger adopted daughter Catherine and her husband Edward Goodell were living in Forest Grove and apparently operating a store. Alvin T. Smith was making regular trips to supply the store with butter, eggs, and pork.⁹²

On March 4, 1871, while feeding a cow Alvin was kicked, and his leg was broken above the ankle. While he was recovering, he and Jane regularly went out for buggy rides. Before breaking his leg, he and Jane were pretty routinely attending services at the Congregational Church. After the accident, Alvin more often stayed home and read his Bible, but Jane continued to go with regularity. She became well acquainted at the Church and was well liked.

In 1871 Alvin was making plans for a home in Forest Grove, going to Sam Hughes and E. Walker to get the deed for his Forest Grove lot corrected. In 1874, Alvin and Jane moved to Forest Grove, 104 "B" Street. Alvin was retired now and still supervised his properties, but was not active in the farming operation.

Death

Alvin Thompson Smith died at his Forest Grove home on Sunday, January 22, 1888, at 12:30 p.m. He was 85 years old. In his final will, Alvin Smith gave his home and the proceeds of his estate to the widow until her death. The will is in the probate records of Alvin Thompson Smith at the Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon.

Jane Averill Smith lived on for 41 more years. Jane saw to the safety of Smith's writings, correspondence and other personal papers by donating them to the Oregon Historical Society.

⁹¹ Ellen died on February 28, 1873. Washington County marriage records show the daughter, Annie C. Miner, marrying Charles Fritz of Yamhill, 20 Nov 1889, at the home of Mrs. A.T. (Jane) Smith.

⁹² The 1880 census shows the family with three children, Charlotte, George, and Laura, ranging from ages 6 to 1/2 year.