

Iowa Nurserymen Introduced Fruit Trees Into Oregon

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IOWA NURSERYMEN INTRODUCED FRUIT TREES INTO OREGON

The Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa recently received from the Oregon Historical Society a piece of "Blackheart" Cherry wood cut from one of the trees conveyed across the plains from Iowa to Oregon in 1847. This slab of wood is about 6 inches square and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, and has $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of bark on two sides, being a fine, solid specimen. A description is attached as follows:

BLACKHEART CHERRY WOOD.—The tree from which this was taken was one of 800 fruit trees of different varieties, including apples, pears, peaches, crabapples, etc., brought across the plains to Oregon in 1847 by HENDERSON LEWELLING aided by his son Alfred, from Salem, Henry County, Iowa. A foot of earth mixed with pulverized charcoal was placed in each wagon box, and in this the two-year-old trees were planted. The trip, beginning in April, ended in November, and the fruit stock was set out a little later a half mile north of the present city of Milwaukee, Oregon, near the present lodge of the Waverly Golf Club. These were the first grafted fruit trees west of the Rocky Mountains. This was known as the "Traveling Nursery," and was the beginning of the fruit industry of the Pacific Coast.

This tree was sold by Mr. Lewelling to David J. Chambers for five dollars in the spring of 1850. He took it with a few other fruit trees to his farm four miles east of Olympia, Washington, and planted it near his house. The Himes family arrived at that place October 21, 1853, and had cherry preserves from that tree that evening, by the courtesy of Mrs. Chambers. The writer of this sketch ate fruit from that tree many times in subsequent years; and the last time he plucked cherries from it was on July 19, 1926.—George H. Himes, Secretary of the Oregon Pioneer Association and Curator of the Oregon Historical Society, 253 Market Street, Portland, Oregon. (4-18-1927-500.)

In corroboration and further on the subject we quote from an article, "Early History of Iowa Horticulture," by G. B. Brackett of Denmark, Lee County, Iowa, published in "Iowa Horticultural Report," 1882, pages 314-15:

In 1836 Henderson Lewelling moved from Salem, Indiana, to Henry County, Iowa, and in 1837 planted a small nursery on Cedar Creek, near Salem; and, also, planted an orchard, including thirty-five varieties of apples, pears, peaches, plums, and cherries. In 1838 John Lewelling moved from Indiana to Henry County, and joined Henderson, his brother, in the nursery business, adding considerable more stock to

the nursery. The business was successfully carried on until 1848, when Henderson concluded to take Horace Greeley's advice to go west, and after filling a box with soil, he planted about 300 root grafts in it, and loaded the same on to his wagon and started across the plains for Oregon, where he arrived in due time, after a long and tedious journey, with his trees in good condition, some of them having made a growth of three feet on the trip. This was truly pioneer horticulture, and evinced a zeal worthy of the cause. John Lewelling remained and continued the nursery business at Salem until 1850, when he crossed the plains, and joined Henderson in Oregon in the nursery business until 1852, when he returned to Iowa, and during the summer of 1852 sold out his interest in the business in Oregon, and moved to San Francisco in 1853, and in 1854 planted a large orchard at Mission, San Jose, for E. L. Beard.

JOHN FITCH KINNEY

John Fitch Kinney was born in New Haven, Oswego County, New York, April 2, 1816. His parents were Stephen F. and Abby (Brockway) Kinney. He attended public school, and later private schools at New Haven and at Hannibal, New York. He also attended the Rensselaer Academy at Oswego, New York, for two years. In 1835 he took up the study of law with Orville Robinson in Mexico, New York, and after two years, or in 1837, removed to Marysville, Ohio. Here he became acquainted with Augustus Hall, a young lawyer from Batavia, New York, with whom he read law one year.

Mr. Kinney at this time became acquainted with Mr. Hall's sister, Hannah D. Hall, whom he married at Mount Vernon, Ohio, January 29, 1839. This marriage doubtless exerted a decided influence on his early public career. Her three brothers, Jonathan C., Augustus and Benjamin F. Hall, were all very influential in Iowa's early history, and destined to be contemporaneous with Mr. Kinney's early professional life in Iowa, Jonathan C. attaining a very large practice in early Iowa courts and becoming a member of the Supreme Court. Augustus became a member of Congress from Iowa and later chief justice of Nebraska Territory.

Mr. Kinney was admitted to the bar at Columbus, Ohio, in 1838. He began practice at Marysville, but in 1840 removed to Mount Vernon where he practiced until 1844. In the summer

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