

CFR 0445

Frank Fanno

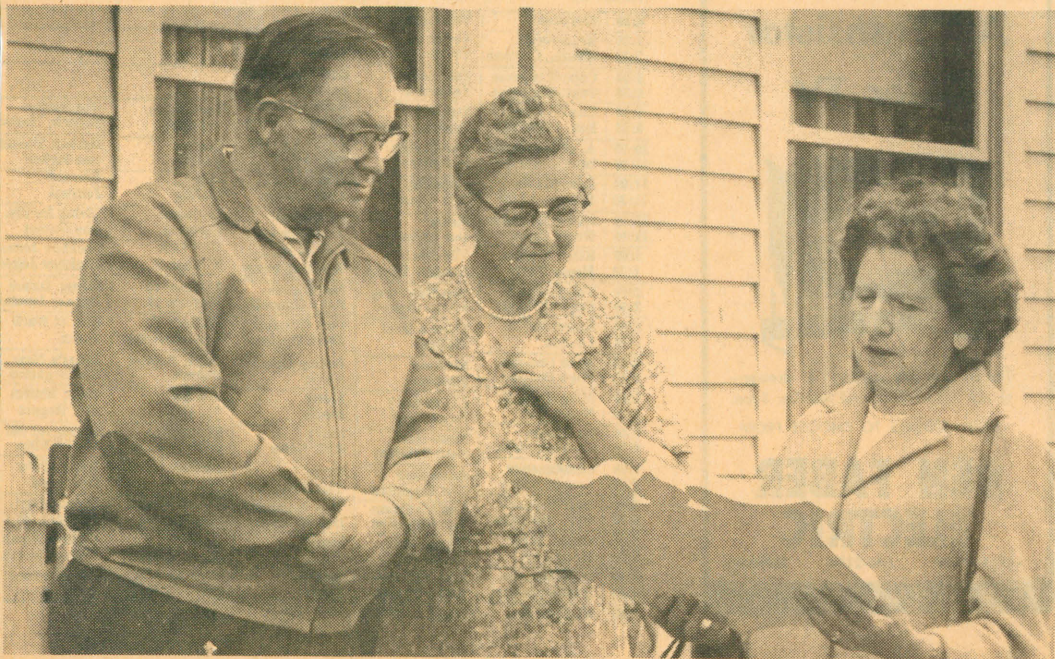
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NEW ENGLANDER, Augustus Fanno, built home in 1850's double strength to withstand storms and house remains in good condition today. House was fifth Century home to be marked by

Tualatin Valley Heritage group in ceremony held Saturday. Frank Fanno, grandson of builder, occupies home. Augustus pioneered draining beaverdam land and in raising onions.

Century Home Marked



MR. AND MRS. FRANK Fanno admire plaque presented to them by Mary Goodall of Lake Oswego, member of Heritage group. Mrs. Goodall said "real history of pioneers much more exciting than television programs about them."

-(Argus photos by Edna Engen)

By EDNA ENGEN
Staff Writer

The Augustus Fanno home, 8385 SW Highway 217, Progress, became the fifth Century home to be marked by members of Tualatin Valley Heritage group

Saturday. The home is occupied by Frank Fanno, grandson of Augustus, and his family.

Presentation of the plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Fanno was made by Mary Goodall, member of the Heritage group. Mrs. Joe

Wilson, who with her husband are donors of the plaques, gave a history of the Fanno family and of the house, and Hugh Stevens, also owner of a century home, gave a history of the old military road that ran in

front of the house in pioneer times.

Mrs. Wilson said Courthouse records vary in the date the house was built from 1850 to 1860, but somewhere during this decade Augustus Fanno built the sturdy New England-style farmhouse. Fanno having lived on the East coast where there were destructive winds, built his house, according to family records "double strength," so if it was ever blown over it would remain intact.

Fanno was born in Cumberland County, Maine, in 1804, descendant of a family of French lineage founded in America at the beginning of the French Revolution. He served on Yankee Clippers and taught school as a young man. Later he settled in Missouri and married Martha Ferguson in 1838. They had one son, Eugene.

The family came to Oregon in 1845, but after completing the long journey Mrs. Fanno died at Oregon City in 1846. Fanno and his son continued the journey to the Tualatin Valley and settled on their 640-acre land claim in Sept. 22, 1846. He became a school teacher at one of the first schools in Washington County, between 1847-50, using "textbooks which had been ordered from missionaries in the Sandwich Islands."

In 1851, he married Rebecca Jane Denney, who had come to Oregon in 1849 with her brothers and had taken up land adjoining the Fanno claim. The couple had two sons and two daughters. Fanno was a pioneer in the draining of land in the area and cultivation of onions in the rich beaverdam soil. The soil was claimed to be so rich that as much as 1000 bush-



TWO MORE GENERATIONS of Fannos were present at ceremony marking father, Norman, great-grandson of Augustus, are great-great-grandsons, DW (front left) and Wayne. Gun is 1830 Springfield, converted from flintlock

els of onions could be harvested to an acre of land.

Great-grandson, Norman Fanno, has the original land grant, signed by Abraham Lincoln. Another of his cherished possessions is an 1830 Springfield rifle converted from flintlock to percussion cap.

Stevens said, in explaining the term "military" road, that in those early days, the Federal government could concern itself only with the Military and the Post Office in the Oregon territory. Back in Washington, D.C., "state righters" of the time watched the Federal government closely to keep it from spending money for what they considered the states' and territories, responsibilities. To get around this the government designated these badly needed roads as "military" roads, thus was able to furnish funds for their construction.

In looking up the records Stevens found some correspondence between a Lieutenant Derby and officials in Washington, D.C.

In one letter the official stated that "even though the roads were built under the subterfuge of military necessity, it nevertheless probably could be justified as protection for settlers from the marauding bands of Indians." Derby said in his reply, that he agreed the roads

were indeed useful but in his opinion "to protect the Indians from the settlers."

In another letter officials wrote to Derby that it was thought that the roads should be built 100 feet wide, thus if trees fell across the roads wagons still would be able to get through. Derby replied that

"since most of the roads were 100 feet wide and a 16-foot Indian cart could pass year the trees and pick up bottom land

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HUTCHIN'S

G-E VALUE DAYS!

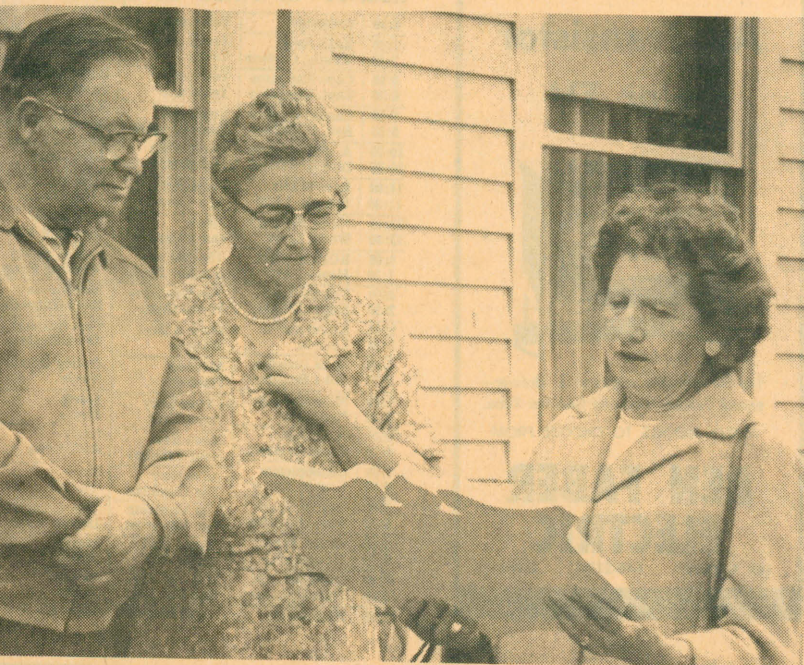
Self-Cleaning



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"since most trees in Oregon were 100 feet high" he felt this would be of no advantage and a 16-foot width would be sufficient.

Also near the Fanno farm is an Indian campsite, where each year the tribes came to camp and pick berries in the rich bottom lands of the area.

HIN'S G-E VALUE DAYS! Self-Cleaning -

Vie for Century Awards

BEAVERTON—Two Washington county farms qualified last week for the Century Farm contest sponsored by the state department of agriculture and the Oregon Historical society.

Original owners still working the farm will be presented with an award at the State Fair this fall. The Century Farm program will be a continuing event and farm families will receive the honor each year as they are able to qualify.

Today modern ranch-type homes almost completely surround the R. B. Denney farm located south east of Pinehurst just outside Beaverton city limits. Mr. and Mrs. Denney who retired from the dairy business a number of years ago live in the comfortable eight-room home which they built in 1946. He donated land grant homesteaded by his grandfather, Thomas H. Denney, on Dec. 1, 1850.

Initiative and perseverance were qualities possessed in large measure by Thomas H. Denney who dismantled his sawmill in Indiana and shipped it to Oregon around Cape Horn. The sawmill set up in 1854 on Fanno creek turned out lumber for many of the early homes in Washington county, including the Fanno home which still stands and the Denney home on what is now Allen Ave. and Scholls Ferry Rd., and which is no longer standing.

Only a stone's throw from highway 217 is the Frank Fanno home built 100 years ago by Frank's grandfather, Augustus. Settling on the creek that today bears his name, the early-day pioneer picked the spot because the "water was pure enough to drink" and "there was a meadow clearing where you could see the sky without looking straight up". The curse of the country then was the dense timber.

Prized possession of the Fanno family is the Certificate No. 12 signed by President Abraham Lincoln granting Augustus Fanno and his wife, Rebecca one section, 640 acres of land. The claim was registered in 1850.

This 100th year finds the Fanno family still farming 80 acres of the original farm where they raise hay and beef cattle. Their married son, Norman and his family also live on the place. Another son, George, is a student at Beaverton union high school, and a married daughter, Mrs. Viola McMaine lives in Portland. Mrs. Fanno conducts a nursery business, specializing in fuchsias and geraniums. The balance of the land was deeded to others in the family.

Today the giant manufacturing plant of Sawyers Inc. at Progress is on part of the original donation land claim. Buttermilk Hill and other housing projects occupy part of the land.

Visiting the Fanno family at the 100-year-old home, we learned the first onions and potatoes raised in Willamette valley came from the farm. Augustus was the first settler along the creek and his nearest neighbor was five miles away. Alonzo Fanno, Frank's father, was instrumental in getting cooperative telephones into the neighborhood.

The family feels a certain pride in its historical role. "I guess that is why we make the best of this old house where a long heavy beam running the full length prevents much remodeling," Mrs. Fanno mused. Taxes on the 80 acres average about \$1000 a year and since the farm doesn't produce it, Fanno is employed in Portland. Both Frank Fanno and his father, Alonzo, were born in the house.

The following data was learned from an interview written by the late Fred Lockley 20 years ago.

Augustus Fanno arrived on the creek in 1847 a widower with a four-year-old son Eugene. His wife had died in childbirth after crossing the plains a year earlier. The family first settled at Linn City across the Willamette river from Oregon City.

In 1849 he married Miss Rebecca Jane Denney, who was born in Kentucky in 1819. Augustus was born near Portland, Maine, in 1804 and went to sea, where he spent over three years voyaging out of Portland and Boston to the West Indies and around. He later settled in New Orleans and taught school. He was the first deputy sheriff appointed in Washington county, and also served as school director.

Frank's mother, Ada Richards, was born in Penzance, England, and came here in 1872.

R. B. Denney has written the family history in the following interesting detail:

On March 10, 1849, Thomas H. Denney, a Kentuckian by birth and a resident of Indiana for a number of years, with his bride of a few months Berilla King Denney, and several relatives, namely Robert and Rebecca Denney, brother and sister, and cousins Dr. John L. Hicklin, James and Elizabeth

started their trek to Oregon from Independence, Mo., with their ox-drawn covered wagon. They arrived at Oregon City in early October, 1849.

On December 1, 1850, Mr. Denney received from the United States government a land grant of 640 acres. This tract is located southeast of Beaverton in the Whitford area. This property had to be homesteaded for two years. On Nov. 24, 1852, he proved up on this grant which, until recently, has been continuously in the family. Most of it has been sold now excepting two smaller portions. One is maintained on Denney road by Miss Ivy Peterson and sister Mrs. Jack Burke, daughters of the late Mrs. Renie Denney Peterson, the other by R. B. Denney, son of B. K. Denney and eldest grandson of Thomas H. Denney.

During the winter of 1849 and early '50 Mr. Denney constructed a three room log cabin on the banks of Fanno creek, where the family resided for a number of years until they built a larger house of the type current in that day.

"Prior to coming to Oregon Mr. Denney operated a sawmill and a gristmill in Concord, Ind. When he prepared to come to Oregon he sold the grist mill and rented the saw mill for two years and then returned to Indiana, dismantled the sawmill and shipped it to Oregon around Cape Horn. The sawmill was established in 1854 on Fanno creek. The mill was run by water power. It was an up and down saw and required a large head of water. Many of the early homes of Washington county were built with lumber from this mill, among them the old Master's, McMillan and Isaac Butler homes near Hillsboro, Ames Chapel and the McKay school in the Progress area. Henry Wehrung, pioneer resident of Hillsboro who was a cabinet and furniture maker, purchased much lumber from this mill, as did many other builders. Mr. Denney was an avid nuts-

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ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY — Beauty and balance are emphasized in century old Frank Fanno home just off Highway 217 near Progress. House was built by Augustus Fanno who registered 640-acre claim in 1850. Certificate signed by

resident Lincoln prized possession of family which still farms 80 acres of original homestead. Fanno creek is named for family.

STAFF PHOTO

It was most interesting to walk through his orchard and see and taste the many varieties of apples, plums, pears and peaches. Some of the old moss grown trees are still standing in this plot near Whitford.

Thomas Denney lived well past 91 years. After his death the property reverted to the four sons and three daughters, Fielding, Lewis, King and Aaron, Burnett, Renie and Allie, who more or less did general farming.

For a number of years, B. K. Denney and sons R. B. and T. B. were in partnership in farming and dairying. After the death of B. K. Denney, the sons continued in the dairy business for several years. T. B. Denney with a herd of Jerseys and R. B. with his sons Fielding and William H. developed a herd of Holsteins and a retail milk route.

Both R. B. and T. B. have now retired. R. B. Denney has reserved a number of acres of the original claim on which he resides. Berries and grain are the crops still being cultivated."



FUCHSIAS GALORE — Mrs. Frank Fanno holds fuchsia basket only one of beauties she grows in profusion at her home nursery. Specializing in both fuchsias and geraniums, the warm and friendly nurserywoman is especially busy in spring and early summer season with customers. She views life in the 100-year-old home with mixed feelings.

STAFF PHOTO

Beaverton Valley News

July 24 1958