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Dear Art,

From your letter to me dated Dec-3, 1982, you said that you recently had met Ivan Donaldson. I have known Ivan for many years and have been in his home at Stevenson.

He may not remember the occasion but Roy Craft, Jim and I went to see him about the old county road between Lower Cascades (15 miles west of Stevenson) and Stevenson. While the conversation drifted to Ex-sheriff, John Totten who sold his store at Stevenson to John Attwell and E. P. Ash. I have forgotten why we wanted to talk to John Totten but I called him on Ivan's telephone and got the information that we needed.

I have always admired Ivan because all I have heard about him is good and none is bad. That's more than some can claim,

Eighty years ago would have been a better time to ask me about my Grandfather, Roger Gerard Attwell. Your grandfather Monty Attwell had a good clear mind even to the time of his death at 95 and his statements were always reliable, even to minor details. As Dad lived with me the last ten years of his life, I had ample time to find out all about Roger Girard but neglected to use it. If my Dad had told me of a match factory, I wouldn't have forgotten.

Roger Girard was a very well educated man. I have read many of his letters. The grammar, spelling and penmanship were excellent. If you compared his letters to those of a high school graduate of today, you would feel sorry for what we are getting.

When I look at how well he prepared himself for his trip to the West, the tools that he brought and ones that he would use after he arrived, wood carving tools like chisels, axe, etc. It is no question that he used his head.

When he looked over the situation at Portland, he figured that the central point for a big city would be where he staked out his homestead. This area is now where 6th and Alder Streets where the U. S. Post Office was erected. Upon closer inspection he found many sections of fine timber at what is now Cascade Locks. This land had a stream running thru it and Roger decided that this was the place to build a sawmill with free water power, so he cancelled his donation land claim at Portland and filed on a millsite on a stream called Attwell Creek where he not only built a sawmill but constructed "ways" for boat building. His building of at least five steamers for the Middle Columbia is proof of his good judgement.

I well remember two separate grist mills that he was supposed to have built in the Portland or Willamette areas. All that I knew was hearsay, but it was positive. On

one occasion someone wanted to place a grinding wheel in some museum. I do not know when he would have the time for building a grist mill.

I have heard ever since I was 8 or 10 years old that my grandfather had the ability to manufacture matches. I have probably heard it a dozen times but never from one with authority. The first matches that I remember using were called China Matches and came in bunches of a few dozen. All were sulphur tipped that would cause a match to ignite if it were drawn across the bunch, scratched on your overalls when the friction and heat would cause it to ignite. They were too common in 1900 and the market too limited to worry about making them.

Roger was born in New York in 1821. He married Mary Jane W. Williams May 18, 1853. If Roger made any matches, it was before Jan-5, 1855, when his first son James Attwell was born. With the building of 5 or 6 steamers on the Middle Columbia and possibly two grist mills, I do not see how he could find time to manufacture matches. He was last heard of about 1860. I doubt if he could have purchased chemicals for the manufacturing of matches any place in the west and he was too busy to postpone his boat building. The market would not justify it. That is about all that I know that is positive.

Plenty of love,
Walter