

# Stevenson Gets Its Name from Early Businessmen

(The Skamania County Pioneer Bi-Centennial paper, August 1976.)

The town of Stevenson got its name from two early businessmen, George and Momen Stevenson, who bought the land, much of it originally part of the Shephard family's donation land claim, and platted the town in 1891.

The Stevenson Land Co. was incorporated in 1893 (No. 3 in the county auditor's files or articles of incorporation) with George Stevenson, George Bell and Seymour Bell as directors and a capital stock of \$24,000.

The first town council meeting was held December 18, 1907. Ordinance No. 1, dated January 14, 1908, provides for the name.

The first mayor was Thomas Carr Avary, a doctor from Georgia, who arrived here around 1900 and in 1908 built the old Samson hotel, which he used as a sanitarium.

The first council was made up of A. C. Sly, J. P. Gillette, John Sweeney, A. Fleishauer and W. S. Young. The councilmen drew lots to see who would serve for two years and who for one. Gillette and Sweeney drew the long terms.

W. E. Miller was chosen as town clerk, S. L. Knox was appointed town marshal and a Mr. Wetherill became treasurer.

Among early settlers in the area were, of course, the Shephards, who were gone before the town was actually built, the Iman and Nix families and the Sweeneys, who also had homesteads east of town; the Taylors, Gillettes, Wachters, Linvilles,, and Bevans.

E. P. Ash arrived in the vicinity in 1886. The Slys and R. M. Wright came shortly after the turn of the century, each of them serving in many public offices.

Raymond C. Sly was the first regular town attorney and served in that capacity until in the early 1950s. Members of most of the other families are still to be found in this area.

The court house came to Stevenson in 1890 from Lower Cascades under cover of darkness. A group of young men employing a handcar, wheelbarrows and saddle bags stole the records and brought them to Stevenson.

Business was transacted in the dance hall over Totton's store until 1903, when the first regular court house was built.

The town suffered two major fires, one in the 1990's which destroyed most of the saloons, and another in 1914, which started in a restaurant on Front Street and burned several buildings.

The "big flood" of 1894 brought water almost up to Front Street, but did no actual damage. In fact, it set off one of the biggest salmon runs in history and Mrs. Minnie Stevenson is said to have made over \$2,000 with the use of a dip net.

A volunteer fire department was not officially established until 1939, but one had existed unofficially for many years prior to that, utilizing hand-drawn hose reels.

The first pumper, a Model A, was purchased in 1928 and finally traded in 1947 on a modern truck.

Mayors who served Stevenson from 1908 to the present include Thomas Carr Avary, A. Fleischauer, A. C. Sly, T. C. Avary, J. H. Alexander, Walter G. Hufford, George F. Christensen, J. H. Alexander, George F. Christensen, W. G. Hufford, L. A. Chevron, W. R. Cooper, Einar Wiitala, Frank Goepel, Sid Adams, Nels Meaghers and James Wright.

## **State Senator J. M. Stevenson Passes Away**

Tuesday morning word was received here of the death of J. M. Stevenson in a Portland Hospital. Mr. Stevenson had been ill for more than a year. At the last session of the State Legislature he was unable to attend its sessions on account of his illness. He did not resign because he thought he would be well enough to attend a part of the session, but he did not improve. The last word received from him before that announcing his death, was that he was much better, but he took a sinking spell from which he could not rally.

John Momen Stevenson was born in Missouri 44 years ago. He came to this state when a boy and lived at Colfax for a while with his mother. His brother, George H. Stevenson, now of Seattle, became interested in the fishing industry along the Columbia River in the early nineties and Momen came down here to help him. For several years the brothers owned or controlled a large number of fish wheels along the river. He was married to Miss Minnie Jones in 1896 and was elected to the legislature for the first time in 1900, and with the exception of four years when he was living in Portland, he has been a member of the legislature ever since, being elected to the Senate to represent Skamania and Klickitat counties three years ago, and as he was elected for four years his term has not yet expired.

Momen Stevenson was known throughout the state. No man had a wider acquaintance with the people throughout the state, and especially with men of affairs than he. He was a good legislator and nobody needed to ask where he stood on any question that came up. He had many friends. Everybody who knew him was his friend for he had a smile that would not wear off. His death, though not unexpected, has cast a gloom over this community and will make sad the hearts of many people in different parts of the state as it becomes known.

Mrs. Stevenson and George H. Christensen are in Portland, making arrangements for the funeral which will take place at Cascades, Friday.

## **Death Claims Minnie Stevenson, 86, Whose Husband Gave Town Its Name**

(Skamania County Pioneer, Feb. 2, 1962)

Word has been received of the passing of Mrs. Minnie Stevenson, 86, whose name is prominently linked with the early history of Skamania County, on January 25, in Oakland, Calif.

Mrs. Stevenson was the wife of the late John Momen Stevenson, who with his brother George, laid out the townsite of Stevenson and gave it the family name.

She was the daughter of Samuel Jones, superintendent of the old Portage Railroad which ceased operation following the high waters of 1894; and the granddaughter of Jason Hamilton, who took out the donation land claim west of the present North Bonneville and gave his name to the old Hamilton Landing, Hamilton Creek and Hamilton Mountain.

Both her father and grandfather served in the Washington State Legislature at various time, seeing service as both senators and representatives.

She was a native of Washington and grew up in Skamania County.

Mrs. Stevenson was the beloved mother of Mrs. Ruth M. Watkins of Oakland, Calif, and Moman B. Stevenson of Santa Rosa, Calif., and the grandmother of Mrs. Elizabeth Holden, John Ball and Richard and Jean Stevenson. She is also survived by four great-grandchildren.

Private services were held Saturday, January 27 at Truman's Chapel in Oakland, Calif.

Among Mrs. Stevenson's close friends here are Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Wright, Mrs. George F. Christensen Sr., Mrs. E. M. Cook and Pres Ash.

Mr. Stevenson passed away in 1917 during World War I. Mrs. Stevenson and her daughter Mrs. Ruth Bell were living in an apartment above Ash's Store when they moved away from Stevenson about 1932.

# MINNIE STEVENSON, GRANDDAUGHTER OF JASON HAMILTON

The Hamiltons came across the U.S. in a covered wagon when Minnie's mother, Losia Amelia Hamilton, was a young girl, arriving in Lower Cascades, Washington Territory in 1850.

Samuel Hamilton was Minnie's grandfather. He died in 1897.

Mary J. Hamilton was Minnie's grandmother.

Losia Amelia Hamilton was Minnie's mother.

Samuel B. Jones was Minnie's father. He was born 2/13/1832; died 1/28/1902.

Losia Amelia Hamilton was Minnie's mother. She was born 7/11/1846; died 3/08/1919.

Minnie Jones was born in 1875, and died Jan. 25, 1962

Minnie Jones married John Moman Stevenson.

Their children were:

Ruth M. Stevenson;

and Moman B. Stevenson, born 10/25/1908; died 4/9/1969.

*(This information was submitted by:*

*Richard Moman Stevenson*

*2555 Tuscan Dr.*

*Santa Rosa, CA 95405-8499)*

**Emma May Stevenson**

married March 30, 1889, to  
Calvin Wilbur Small

b. May 17, 1862

d. Jan. 14, 1921

b. Jan 31, 1857

d. Dec. 20, 1941

Ada Lorraine Small

married July 1, 1918 to

**Morris Jackson Sparks**

Children:

**Katheleen May Sparks**

married April 24, 1940 to  
Hubert Mammmen

**Eleanor May Sparks**

married June 20, 1942 to  
Carl Oreg (divorced.  
married Aug. 23, 1956 to  
Arthur Alsberg

**Morris Calvin Sparks**

married Nov. 2, 1946 to  
Jean Bonham

b. Jan 1, 1894

b. April 12, 1886

d. July 28, 1928

b. Nov. 28, 1920

b. May 28, 1924

b. Oct. 10, 1925

Grandchildren:

**Karen Rae Orey (adopt.) Alsberg** b. June 17, 1943  
 married June 17, 1962 to  
 Charles Kinsey

**Stephen Kent Orey (adopt.) Alsberg** b. Nov 17, 1944  
 married Feb. 14, 1968 to  
 Robin McLeod

**Christopher Bruce Mammen** b. Aug. 5, 1945

**Cheryl Mamman** b. Aug. 27, 1947

**Andrea Alsberg** b. Sept. 19 1958

Great-granchildren:

**Susan Joy Kinsey** b. Dec. 19, 1963

**Arthur Charles Kinsey** b. Aug. 9, 1966

**Kerry Jill Kinsey** b. Dec. 6, 1968

**Heather Alsberg** b. Feb. 17, 1969

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**Emma May Stevenson** b. May 17, 1862 d. Jan. 14, 1921  
 married Nov. 30, 1889 to

**Calvin Wilbur Small** b. June 31, 1857 d. Dec. 20, 1941

Children:

**Ada Lorraine Small** b. Jan 1, 1894 d.  
 married July 1, 1886 to  
 Morris Jackson Sparks b. April 12, 1886 d. July 28, 1928

**Kathleen May Sparks** b. Nov. 28, 1920  
 married Apr. 24, 1940 to  
 Herbert Mammen

**Eleanor Mary Sparks** b. May 28, 1924  
 (1) married June 20, 1942 to  
 Carl Orey

(2) married July 23, 19\_\_

**Morris Calvin Sparks** b. Oct. 10, 1925  
 married  
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Grandchildren:

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 married Feb. 14, 1968 to  
 Robin McLeod

**Bruce Mammen**  
**Cheryl Mammen**  
**Gayle Sparks**  
**Laura Sparks**  
**Andrea Alsberg**

b. Aug. 5, 1945  
b. Aug. 27, 1947  
b. Nov. 26, 1949  
b. Aug. 16, 1962  
b. Sept. 19, 1958

# GEORGE STEVENSON FAMILY GENEALOGY

06 January, 1989

Dear Cousins,

Enclosed is my third revised copy of the family tree for the descendants of HENRY STEELE STEVENSON (1810-1889). I have separate trees for nine of his eleven brothers and sisters (one died young and one had no children). I have a "master" STEVENSON tree available, that covers the background of the STEVENSON family and includes pages on HENRY'S brothers and sisters. Please let me know if you want a copy.

Please send me any corrections, additions or comments. I am interested in all stories, anecdotes, occupations, hobbies, military, etc. of all of the early STEVENSONs and related families. Eventually I will publish a book on the descendants of ROBERT M.Y. STEVENSON and I will include all of this type of information. I also would like to collect copies of early photos. I am very willing to pay you to have your early photos copied so that others may enjoy them.

The date at the top of each page refers to the date I changed any of the contents of that page. Thus if you get a new tree only the pages with new dates at the top will be changed.

I look forward to hearing from all of you with information, photos, addresses of people I should write to, or just comments. Please let me know if you want to be kept updated on the progress of my work. As you can see I know very little about the descendants of HENRY STEELE STEVENSON. I need a lot of help.

ROLAND DANIEL STEVENSON III  
127D W. GLAUCUS STREET  
LEUCADIA, CA 92024  
619-942-3754 (home)  
619-453-5349 (work)

Sincerely,  
Dan Stevenson

## BIOGRAPHY

I often get asked "who are you?" So I will include a little biography of myself. I was born December 21, 1952 at Portland, Oregon. I was raised in West Linn, Oregon about 15 miles south of Portland. I am the son of ROLAND DANIEL STEVENSON II (1920-1968) and BETTY JANE BAKER STEVENSON. My father was born at Parma, Missouri and came to Oregon at age 12. My mother was born at Hinckley, Illinois and came to Oregon as a girl of six. I have a sister Julie who is two years older and a brother Dick, two years younger. My grand-father ROLAND DANIEL STEVENSON (1898-1950) was born at Brunot, Wayne Co., Missouri and brought his family to Oregon in 1932. He was the son of DAVID HENDERSON STEVENSON (1853-1931) who lived his life in Missouri. DAVID was the son of JOSEPH MILUS STEVENSON (1799-1862), one of HENRY STEELE STEVENSON'S older brothers.

HG HENRY STEELE STEVENSON  
b. / /1810 at MO  
d. / /1889 at Flinn Springs, San Diego Co., MO

Married:

1) ELIZABETH \_\_\_\_\_ PEYTON  
b. 06/15/1818 at MO  
m. at MO  
d. 11/20/1853 at MO

2) MARGARET ELIZABETH GEORGE  
b. / /1834 at MO  
m. 12/07/1856 at Madison Co., MO  
d. at MO

Children:

Children:

HGA GEORGE H_____ STEVENSON	b. 12/15/1857	d. 09/20/1923
HGB NANCY JENNIE S___ STEVENSON	b. / /1860	d.
HGC EMMA MAY STEVENSON	b. / /1862	d.
HGD MARY R_____ STEVENSON	b. / /1868	d.
HGE HENRY L_____ STEVENSON	b. / /1870	d. 03/08/3897
HGF JOHN MOMAN STEVENSON	b. 10/11/1872	d. 10/02/1917

HENRY and ELIZABETH were living at Wayne Co., MO at the time of the 1850 census. They had no children of their own, but were caring for HENRY and REBECCA, children of HENRY'S brother JOHN. In addition they were caring for HENRY PHELPS, son of HENRY's sister CYNTHIA STEVENSON PHELPS. It may be that a school was nearby, accounting for their living with HENRY. It is believed that MAY or MARY went by the name MOLLIE. The family was living at Ironton, Iron Co., Missouri in 1860 with GEORGE the only child yet born and REBECCA STEVENSON still living with them. At the time of the 1880 census HENRY and MARGARET had only the three youngest children living with them at home. One or two years before his death HENRY went to California to hunt for gold at Julian, in the mountains above San Diego. He died at the house of his sister SARAH EMILY STEVENSON FLINN at Flinn Springs. He is buried in the FLINN cemetery next to SARAH EMILY and his brother-in-law WILLIAM FLINN. ELIZABETH PEYTON STEVENSON was buried at the old Greenville Cemetery, Wayne Co., Missouri. MARGARET GEORGE STEVENSON was from Log Town, Iron Co., Missouri (about 2.5 miles south of Arcadia). MARGARET is listed as ELIZABETH M. on the 1860 census. The obituary of son JOHN M. STEVENSON says that he lived with his mother at Coifax, Washington before moving to Skamania County. Thus MARGARET may have died in Washington.



In a 1963 letter Mrs. Emma Douglas of Carson, Skamania Co., Washington, says that the STEVENSON family had a large house and fishtraps near the old portage railroad near the present Bridge of the Gods and that GEORGE, HENRY, and JOHN lived there.

HGA GEORGE H\_\_\_\_\_ STEVENSON  
b. 12/15/1857 at \_\_\_\_\_, Iron Co., MO  
m. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
d. 09/20/1923 at Seattle, Cook Co., WA

Married: REBECCA ANTOINETTE SLOCUM  
b. / /1868 at \_\_\_\_\_, Lake Co., CA  
d. 09/16/1932 at W. Steilacoom, Reese Co., WA

Children:

HGAA REBECCA N\_\_\_\_\_ STEVENSON  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
m. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
Married: ??? Children: ???

GEORGE moved to Washington Territory shortly after 1880. He was on the first Washington Legislature and signed the Statehood papers. He, along with his brother HENRY, platted the town of Stevenson, Skamania Co., Washington in 1893. This town is now the County seat. The family moved to Seattle in 1913. Daughter REBECCA attended the University of Washington in at least 1914 and was Society Editor for the Seattle Times newspaper in 1920 to 1930. It is not known what happened to her after that time. GEORGE is interred at the Washelli Mauseleum in Seattle, King Co., WA. His wife, REBECCA, is buried at Kent, Washington. REBECCA was the daughter of:

ASA ANTHONY SLOCUM  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ at Providence, \_\_\_\_\_ Co., RI m. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
Married: ANNA\_\_\_\_\_ MARTIN  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ England  
d. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

HGF JOHN MOMAN STEVENSON

b. 10/11/1872 at , Iron Co., MO  
m. 04/17/1895 at , Skamania Co., WA  
d. 10/02/1917 at Portland, Multnomah Co., OR

Married: MINNIE \_\_\_\_\_ JONES

b. / /1875 at Cascades, Skamania Co., WA  
d. / /1962 at

Children:

HGFA RUTH MARY STEVENSON b. 10/27/1897 d.  
HGFB MORMON BOOKER STEVENSON b. 10/25/1900 d.

In about 1911 JOHN sent a letter back to some of the STEVENSON relatives back in Missouri. In the letter he said that he came to Washington in 1889. He engaged in farming in Palouse, Whitman Co., for two years before he moved to Cascades in 1891 (where his brother GEORGE lived). He lived in Cascades until 1900 when he went to Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada to mine. Returned in the same year went to eastern Oregon and mined quartz for two years. Returned to Cascades in 1902 and resumed fishing. Between the years 1902 and 1908 he served three terms in the Washington Legislature and then moved to Portland, Oregon, where he worked for the Spokane, Portland, and Seattle Railroad. Moved to Stevenson, Skamania County, Washington in 1911 and engaged in real estate. JOHN and MINNIE are buried at Cascades Pioneer Cemetery, near Stevenson, Skamania Co., Washington, next to MINNIE'S parents. However, JOHN'S obituary says that he lived at Colfax, Washington after coming to Washington with his mother.

MINNIE was the daughter of:

SAMUEL B\_\_\_\_\_ JONES

b. 02/13/1832 at AL  
m. 1868 at d. 01/28/1902 at

Married: LOSIA AMELIA HAMILTON

b. 07/11/1846 at IL  
d. 03/08/1919 at , Skamania Co., WA

LOSIA's family came to Lower Cascades, Skamania Co., Washington in 1850, very early pioneers. SAMUEL and LOSIA had one son, WILLIAM W. JONES (11/13/1869-10/9/1882) who is buried beside them. LOSIA was the daughter of JASON HAMILTON.

## **OBITUARY OF MINNIE JONES STEVENSON**

The following obituary appeared in the February 2, 1962 edition of the Skamania County Pioneer, published at Stevenson, Skamania County, Washington.

DEATH CLAIMS MINNIE STEVENSON, 86, WHOSE HUSBAND GAVE TOWN ITS NAME

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Mrs. STEVENSON was the wife of the late JOHN MOMEN STEVENSON, who with his brother GEORGE laid out the townsite of Stevenson and gave it the family name.

She was the daughter of SAMUEL JONES, superintendent of the old Portage Railroad which ceased operation following the high waters of 1894; and the granddaughter of JASON HAMILTON, who took out the donation land claim west of the present North Bonneville and gave his name to the old Hamilton creek and Hamilton Mountain.

Both her father and grandfather served in the Washington State Legislature at various times, seeing service as both senators and representatives.

She was a native of Washington and grew up in Skamania County.

Mrs. STEVENSON was the beloved mother of Mrs. RUTH M. WATKINS of Oakland, California, and MOMAN B. STEVENSON of Santa Rosa, California, and the grandmother of Mrs. ELIZABETH HOLDE, JOHN BALL, and RICHARD and JEAN STEVENSON. She is also survived by four great-grandchildren.

Private services were held Saturday, January 27 at Truman's Chapel in Oakland, California.

Among Mrs. STEVENSON'S close friends here are Mr. and Mrs. R.M. WRIGHT, Mrs. GEORGE F. CHRISTIANSEN Sr., Mrs. E.M. COOK and PRE ASH.

Mr. STEVENSON passed away in 1917 during World War I. Mrs. STEVENSON and her daughter Mrs. RUTH BALL were living in an apartment above Ash's Store when they moved away from Stevenson about 1932.

GFA RUTH MARY STEVENSON

b. 10/27/1897 at Portland, Multnomah Co., OR m. 05/24/1919 at Stevenson, Skamania Co., WA d.

HGFA RUTH MARY STEVENSON

b. 10/27/1897 at Portland, Multnomah Co., OR

m. 05/24/1919 at Stevenson, Skamania Co., WA

d.

1) Married: JOHN WESLEY BALL

b. c1889 at IN

d. at

2) Married: \_\_\_\_\_ WATKINS

Children:

HGFAA ELIZABETH ANN BALL b.

Married: \_\_\_\_\_ HOLDEN

Children:

HGFAA \_\_\_\_\_ HOLDEN

HGFAB \_\_\_\_\_ HOLDEN

HGFAB JOHN \_\_\_\_\_ HALL b.

Married: \_\_\_\_\_ HOLDEN

Children: ???

HGFABB \_\_\_\_\_ BALLEEN

JOHN BALL was a Civil Engineer with the U.S. Office of Public Roads and Rural Engineering and lived at the YMCA in Portland, Oregon when they married. He was the son of JOSEPH H. BALL and SARAH E. JOHNSON.

HGFB MOMAN BOOKER STEVENSON

b. 10/25/1900 at Portland, Multnomah Co., OR

m. / /1931 at Oakland, Alameda Co., CA.

d. 04/09/1969 at Alameda Co., CA.

Married: GERTRUDE \_\_\_\_\_

b. / /1909 at CA.

Children:

HGFBA RICHARD \_\_\_\_\_ STEVENSON

HGFBB ELEANOR JEAN STEVENSON

MOMAN is buried at \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery, at \_\_\_\_\_, Alameda County, California.

MOMAN came to University of California, Berkeley to attend college and stayed in California.

GERTRUDE is the daughter of: