



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

May 2022

A History of Beaverton, Oregon



Postcard view of the Oregon Electric Interurban Depot in Beaverton, Oregon, circa 1910. Postally unused.

WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

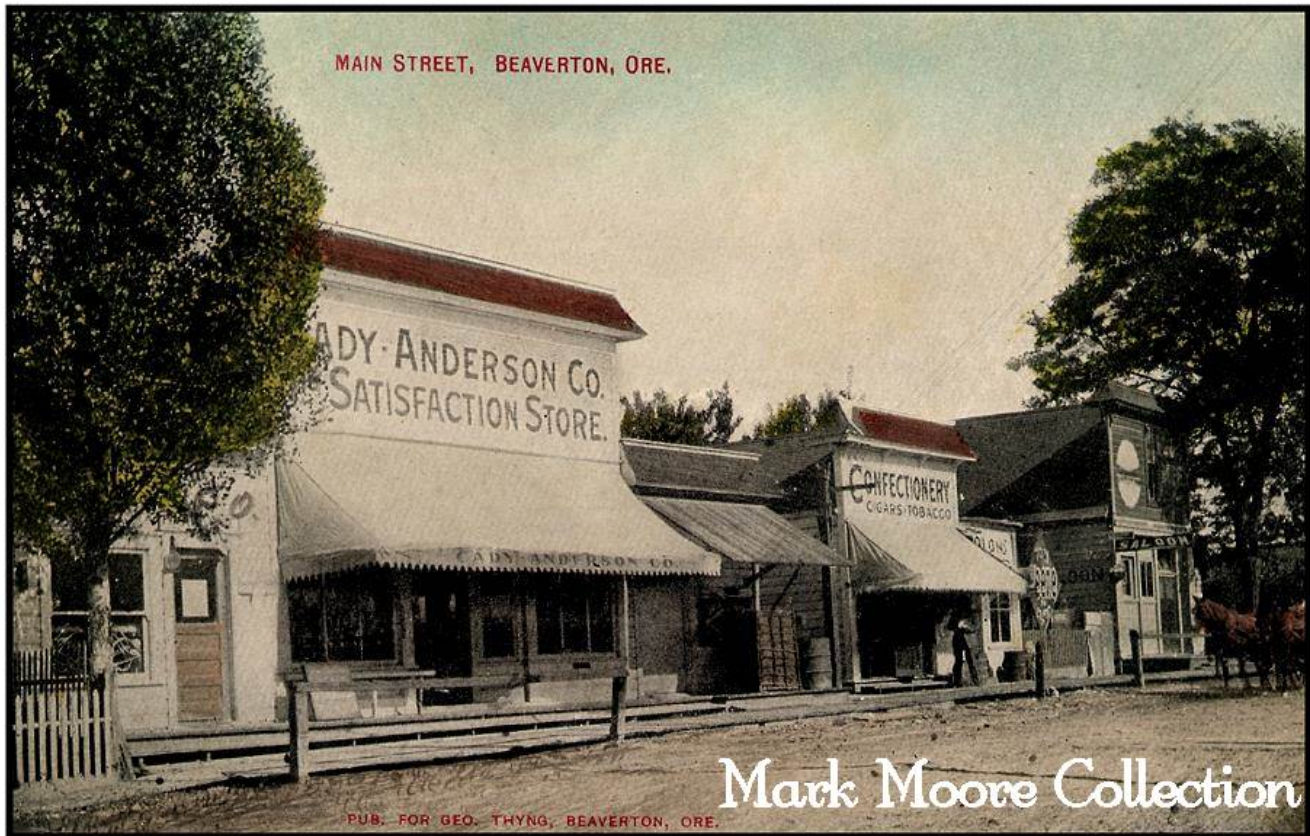
PO Box 17240

Portland OR 97217-0240



www.thewebfooters.com

A History of Beaverton, Oregon



Postcard of Main Street in Beaverton, Oregon showing Cady-Anderson Satisfaction Store and Confectionery as well as the Main Street Saloon. Postally unused. The written message on the back is dated March 23, 1910.

The Tualatin Valley and Beaverton area was originally the home of native people who referred to themselves as "Atfalati." Westerners later mispronounced the name as Tualatin. The tribe was a hunter-gatherer group which relied more on plants than animals for their food. They made use of various plant materials for making their clothes, houses and other personal effects. Although prosperous, the Atfalati population declined significantly starting in the late 1700s.

The Native Americans occupied a village located on the Beaverton and Fanno creeks that was called "Chakeipi." Although the name meant "Place of the Beaver," early settlers called the village "Beaver Dam" and this was later changed to Beaverton.

It was not until 1792 that westerners first visited the Pacific Northwest when American Robert Gray sailed into the Columbia River and opened the door to exploration. Later that year, British Lt. William Broughton, serving under Capt. George Vancouver, explored 100 miles upriver. Along the way, he named a point of land along the shore in honor of his commander.

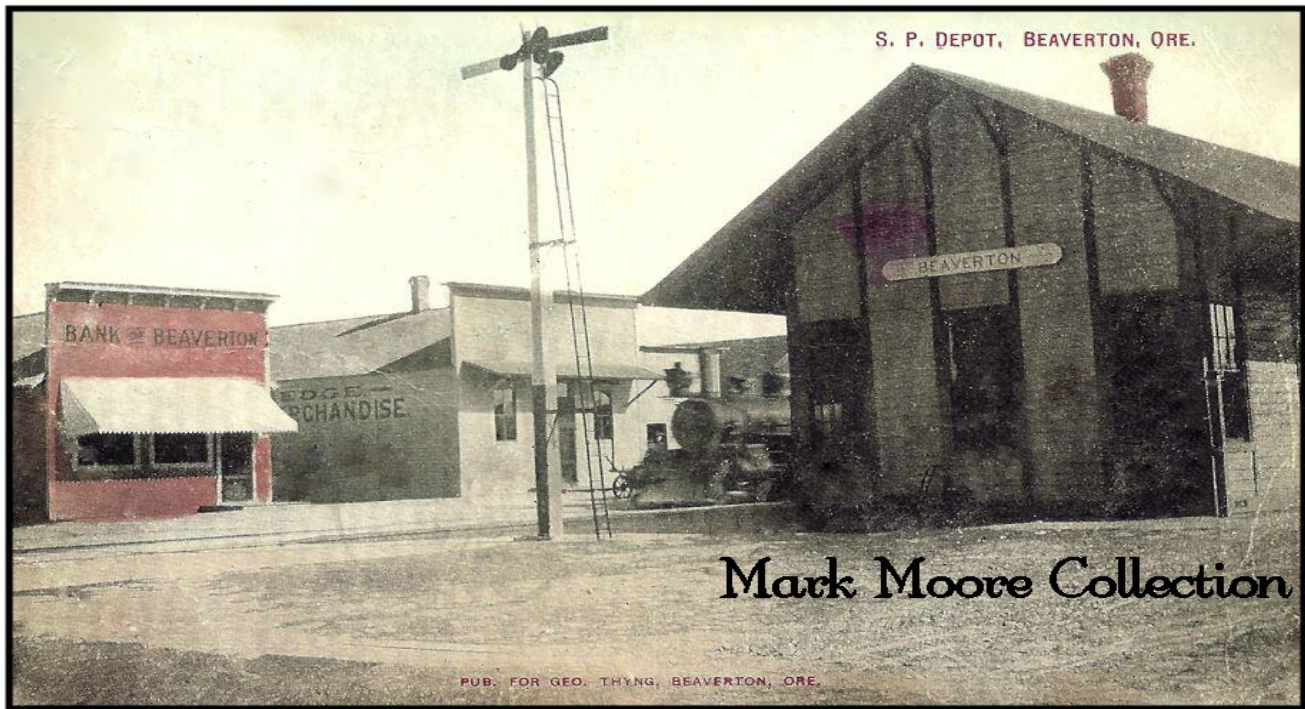


Real photo postcard view of the Rossi Saloon in Beaverton, Oregon which was built in 1900. Postmarked in Beaverton on September 27, 1910.

The first overland expedition to the northwest came when American explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark visited in 1806. On the return trip, they camped near what is now Vancouver, Washington. Lewis characterized the area as “the only desired situation for settlement west of the Rocky Mountains.”

In the spring of 1847, the first land claim (comprising 640 acres of Beaverdam) located in what is now Beaverton was taken up by Lawrence Hall. He and his brother built a grist mill near present-day Walker Road. Their mill, along with others that were soon built in the area, was instrumental in supporting Oregon’s early agriculture communities. The other important industry in early Oregon was logging and wood products. Thomas Denney and his wife Berrilla came to Oregon in 1849 and quickly established the first sawmill in what is now the Beaverton area.

As more people came into the area, it became increasingly important to provide a system of roads to transport agricultural and wood products to Portland for shipment. In 1850, the territorial government created the Portland-Tualatin Valley Plank Road Company to build plank roads from Portland to Hillsboro along Canyon Road. The road was completed as far as Beaverton by 1860, despite various financial setbacks.



Postcard of Front Street in Beaverton, Oregon showing the Bank of Beaverton, a General Merchandise Store and the Southern Pacific Depot. Postmarked April 25, 1910.

Spurred on by a railroad into town built in 1868, the small farming community west of Portland began to grow. Early settlers include the Hall Family from Kentucky, the Denneys who lived on their claim near present-day Scholls Ferry Road and Hall Boulevard, as well as Orin S. Allen, from western New York.

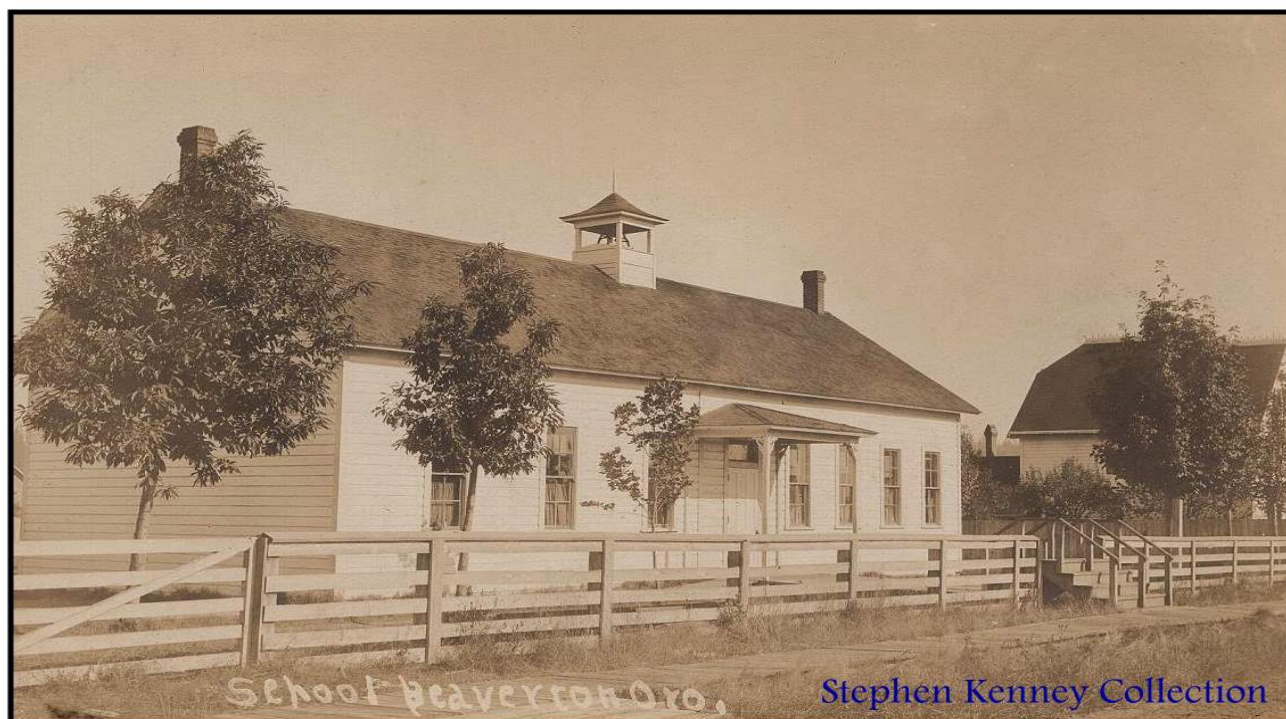
After the American Civil War, numerous other settlers, including Joshua Welch, George Betts, Charles Angel, W. P. Watson, and John Henry, laid out what is now known as Beaverton hoping they could bring a railroad to an area once described as, "mostly swamps and marshes connected by beaver dams to create what looked like a huge lake."

In 1872, Beaverton's first post office opened in a general store operated by George Betts, who also served as the first postmaster of the community. Betts Street, where the current post office now stands, is named in honor of him. In 1893, Beaverton, which by that time had a population of 400, was officially incorporated. Alonzo Cady, a local businessman, served as the first mayor. Many major roads in Beaverton are named for these early settlers.

Beaverton was an early home to automobile dealerships. A Ford Motor Company dealership was established there in 1915; it was purchased by Guy Carr in 1923 and over the years, Carr expanded it into several locations throughout Beaverton. There are still several dealerships near the intersection of Walker and Canyon roads.



Real photo postcard view of the Interurban Depot in Beaverton, Oregon. Postmarked in Beaverton on October 18, 1909. The depot was located south of Broadway St. near Farmington Road.



Real photo postcard view of the one-story school in Beaverton, Oregon circa 1909. Postally unused.

In the early 1920s, Beaverton was home to Premium Picture Productions, a movie studio which produced about fifteen films. The studio site was later converted into Watt's Field and associated aircraft manufacturing facilities. A second Beaverton airport, Bernard's Airport, was later developed farther north, at the present location of the Cedar Hills Crossing Mall.

Beaverton's first library opened its doors in 1925 on the second floor of the Cady Building. Over the years the library has been housed in several different locations.

Sources: Beaverton Chamber of Commerce and Wikipedia.



THE TWO MIKES FROM SEATTLE
ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING POSTCARD COLLECTIONS,
ANY SIZE, ANY LOCATION. ALSO BUYING EPHEMERA, MAPS,
PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSTERS.

Call: Mike Fairley 206-499-7413
or Mike Maslan 206-587-0187

email: fairlookantiques@gmail.com
email: oldphoto4u@aol.com

