

THE MUCKLE FAMILY

By BERYL MUCKLE BRAKKE

My grandfather, James Muckle, was born in Morpah, Northumberland, England, in 1809. He came with his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Muckle, from Greenwich, England, to Canada in about 1813. His father was a master mason and stone cutter. They lived in Montreal and Quebec. On July 16, 1834, my grandfather married Catherine Charles at Planeagenet, Ontario, Canada. Catherine's father was a Commissary General in Montreal until the close of the war. He then was appointed Superintendent of the Redeau Canal of Ottawa where he was killed by a blast set off by some war renegades. After my grandparents were married they moved to a farm in Alfred, Ontario. Eleven children were born to them as follows: Robert, James, Charles, William, Washington, Margaret Burke, Annie Cox, Eliza Switzer, Mary George, Jane and Thomas. The latter two passed away in childhood.

Robert Muckle was the first to enter the United States, just after the Civil War. He settled in Tennessee. He came to St. Helens for a short time, then went back to Tennessee. James and Charles came next, first to Ohio, then to Wisconsin, where they worked in logging camps. In 1870 they came to Camas, Washington. In 1874 they came to St. Helens, Oregon. My grandparents and three aunts came in 1876. My father, William, and Washington came from Wisconsin, where they had been working. After James and Charles came, they bought the Ladd Co. mill and property and later they built a general store and took in James Dart as partner. James and Charles Muckle in 1892 bought some timber land down on the Coweeman River in Cowlitz County, Washington, where they

logged for many years. Con Curry was their logging superintendent for several years, then my uncle, Jacob George, was made superintendent.

James and Charles bought several pieces of farm and logging property in and around St. Helens. One of the pieces is the present Columbia County Fairgrounds. At one time, Charles owned six farms.

About 1900 James Muckle moved to Portland where he looked after the timber interests of the firm. Charles bought the old opera house on the plaza and moved it to First and Cowlitz streets, and remodeled it into a hotel. Tom Cloninger and son ran it for a couple of years, then my uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob George, came in 1906 and ran it for many years as the St. Helens hotel.

My father, William, and Washington went to Rainier, Oregon, in 1853. Washington was a partner with Dean Blanchard in a mill, a store and a city dock. My father worked in the store for a short time, then built one of his own. In 1887 my father and Washington bought some timber land at Skamokawa, which they logged with Mark Kelly, who came from the same town in Canada. Some years later, Johnny Yeon, who also came from the same place in Canada, wrote and asked about the timber, and they told him to come out. He started his first camp at Skamokawa, then went to Rainier, Oregon, where he had a very successful and profitable camp.

My father went back to Rainier, where he was made postmaster in 1894 after the flood destroyed the other postoffice. In 1909 he moved to St. Helens where he and Washington started a hardware store. In 1922 he moved to Portland where he built a grocery store and lived there until he passed away in 1929.