

UPPER TENMILE CREEK (LANE COUNTY) HOMESTEADERS AND EARLY SETTLERS



**Cabin on homestead of Mike Conoboy
Tenmile Creek, 1938**

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Information gathered from available documents as well as conversations with early settlers Jim and Ed Stevens, former Tenmile valley residents Jim and Robert McCrae, and Stanley Poe.

SUMMARY

The lower Tenmile Creek area and some parts of the upper Tenmile Creek valley were claimed by settlers under various Land Grant Acts prior to 1906. The Forest Homestead Act of 1906 affected most of the settlements in the upper Tenmile Creek valley. Under this Act settlers were required to prove that the homestead claims were being used for agricultural production. Although most of the claims met these “proving up” requirements, not many of these early settlers managed to make a living from these homesteads. Road construction during the 1930s Depression era and timber demand after World War II created an incentive for early homesteaders to sell their properties to timber companies. Only a few of the original homesteads remain today. Many of these properties have been returned to the US Forest Service or are protected from further development by present land use laws and conservation agreements.

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Returning to Tenmile from a shopping trip to Waldport, about 1920. Frank and father Charles Stevens, Maggie Stevens, and Theresa Hays-Stevens, wife of Frank Stevens.

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I. FOREWORD

In 2013 I undertook the task to write a short description of the changes of land ownership on the upper Tenmile Creek valley. As I progressed in this task I decided to expand the background of the land ownership movements to include the Forest Homestead Act of 1906 implications and the later habitat conservation efforts. This paper should not be considered a documented research project. It is merely a compilation of available documents and observations by older residents about the Tenmile Creek valley. Information provided should be viewed as observations and sources available. More thorough research may develop specific details on persons and property. Sections II, III, and IV provide some background observations about early use of natural resources, development policies and subsequent awareness of habitat conservation. Section V and VI contain available information on settlements in the upper Tenmile valley. General observations of Tenmile Creek development by Hans Radtke are included in Section VII. The numbers in Section VI of the parcels correspond to the numbers on the maps of Section VIII. Also available are copies (electronic) of the Beck documents describing life in the lower Tenmile Creek valley, and videos of interviews with the Stevens brothers in 1986 and with Stan Poe in 2013. Disks made available by Kevin Bruce, US Forest Service, Siuslaw Forest, describe the Forest Service reviews to “patent” these settlements. Section IX includes additional references that may be helpful to the understanding of the settlement and resource-use history of the Pacific Northwest. Photographs in this document are of available family pictures from Ed and Jim Stevens, Robert McCrae. The cover picture of the Conoboy cabin is from the Siuslaw National Forest collection.

II. WESTERN EXPANSION, LAND GRANTS, and HOMESTEAD ACTS

The expansion of the American West was driven by the search for gold and other valuable natural resources.

The Spanish discovered that gold was easily taken from the Americas by raiding gold treasures from existing civilizations. As these treasures were depleted, gold mining in the North Americas became the second best alternative to increase wealth. Other natural resources that could be exploited (fur, wild meat and fish, water, land, etc.) without payment to existing inhabitants made western expansion attractive. Land, especially in Europe, was seen as a measure of wealth and social standing. Possession of land in North America by European immigrants was therefore a quick way up the social ladder.

In the earlier days of Western expansion into Oregon free or cheap land drew land speculators to Portland and the Willamette valley.¹ These early speculators survived based on trade with San Francisco and the California Gold Rush. The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 provided an expanded demand for lumber that was transported by ship.

¹ 1 MacColl, E. Kimboreck. *Merchants, Money and Power. The Portland Establishment 1843-1913*. The Georgian Press.

During the 1800s the United States passed several laws designed to expand the population throughout its newly acquired lands. The Homestead Act of 1862 parceled off public domain land into 160 acre lots to encourage people to migrate and settle in the Western part of the United States. “These homesteads were to be sold at \$1.25 per acre or, after five years of working the land, it was then patented free to those settlers.” ²

For a summary of US Forest Service involvement in both protecting and helping to develop rural settlements refer to Gerald W. Williams’ history of the US Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest. The following are some excerpts from this book.³

“The General Land Office (now the Bureau of Land Management) administered programs created by Congress for the disposition of the public domain...Several homestead laws proved very important to the future in the Pacific Northwest. The first of these was the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 (DLCC) intended to promote homestead settlement in the Oregon territory. By the time the law expired on December 1, 1855, over 8,000 patents had been issued, covering nearly 2.54 million acres. Most of the DLCs were taken up in the lush, grass-filled valleys of Washington and Oregon; later emigrants would have to be satisfied with foothill land, often covered with evergreen trees, to make a living.

The Homestead Act of 1862 was another law that proved to be highly popular. Another land law, the Desert Land Act 1877, permitted filing if the claimant could bring the land under irrigation within three years; most applications were in the plateau area of central and eastern Washington and Oregon. In addition, several more land acts passed Congress. The amounts were each relatively small, but sometimes significant. The Timber and Stone Act of 1878 allowed persons to claim land at \$2.50 for its timber or stone that was otherwise unfit for cultivation. By 1881, almost 5,000 acres had been claimed in Washington and almost 3,000 in Oregon. This act would have a huge impact on the workload of early forest rangers in Region 6 as there was great potential for land fraud.” (pp 26-27)

Efforts were underway in the 1880s to persuade the president and Congress to allow for the creation of forest reservations from public domain land. There were “critics of the forest reserve program in Congress and the various western states. One of the constant concerns was that when the reserve boundaries were drawn, they often contained small farms or land that could be farmed. Settlers and residents of the West were no longer eligible for homesteads under the earlier homestead acts of the mid-1800s or the Timber and Stone Act of 1878. Mining claims were another option, but the acreage allowed was small, usually 80 acres, and there had to be proven mineral deposits on the land. There was still pressure to open more federal and state land to homesteading. Potential farmland inside national forest boundaries became the target of timber companies, grazing interests, and legal homesteaders. As the intent of the reserves was to protect the

² Beck Bogue, Barbara. *Proved Up on Tenmile Creek. The Story of the Early Settlers of Tenmile Creek.* Lane County, Oregon.

³ Williams, Gerald W. *The US Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History.* Oregon State University Press.

timbered lands and watersheds, opponents of the Forest Service gleefully expressed their opposition to including farmlands within the reserves.

The Forest Homestead Act was passed and signed into law by President Roosevelt on June 11, 1906. For many years this law would be referred to as the ‘June 11th Act’. The Act allowed some limited homesteading within the national forests, but specified that certain conditions had to be met by the homesteaders, including that no more than 160 acres could be claimed and the land must be more valuable for agriculture use than for timber production....Like the older lieu-land and homestead laws this new act would provide plenty of opportunities for fraud. However, there were no large-scale conspiracies such as had been common in earlier years. The Forest Service was very active in examining the forest homestead applications; forest examiners were very thorough relying on notes, signed depositions, maps, and photographs of each claim. A few cases reached the courts but fewer still were allowed to go to patent.”⁴ (p 63)

“Each new state was granted a large amount of land for schools—sections 16 and 36 in each unsurveyed township, each section a nominal square mile. The idea was that the state would sell the sections, known for many years as school lands, and keep the money to fund schools and agricultural colleges in the state.”⁵ (p 26) This could explain the Wilson/Heiligman/Radtke property not being on the US Forest Service 1906 Homestead files.

Most of the lower and coastal area of Tenmile was homesteaded by Ira Bray ⁶ and friends (Brays Point is named after him). Many of these homesteads lands were then sold to the Stonefield family (who had homesteaded at Big Creek and Cape Creek), and subsequently to the Hall family. Much of the lower area of Tenmile was developed for recreational use after World War I (WWI). Many of these claims were most likely completed with earlier land settlement acts. Some of the area at the mouth of Tenmile Creek was nicknamed “Little Corvallis” after the recreational cabin owners from Oregon State Agricultural College. The upper Tenmile Creek valley maintained its attraction for settlers. “Families continued to homestead the Tenmile area. Many of them went upstream as far as the South and North Forks of Tenmile Creek. Most of these claims and settlements were conducted under the Forest Homestead Act of 1906. Little is known about many of these hardy pioneers except their names. Names that are remembered are Josiah Holsinger, Fred J. Vader, Louis C. Emmett, James Tyler, Clarendon C. McBride, Eva G. Purdy, Michael Conoboy, Oscar M. Leeper, Patrick Dalton and Bill Sheply.”⁷ It is interesting that of these names mentioned only the name Oscar Leeper is mentioned by later residents. So, unless future review of homestead records name specific names and places on the upper Tenmile Creek valley we should assume that many of these homesteads were abandoned and returned to the US Forest Service, or quickly sold to subsequent settlers such as Stevens. The Beck book⁸ does

⁴ ibid

⁵ ibid

⁶ Beck Bogue, Barbara

⁷ ibid

⁸ ibid

mention that “McCrae was a member of another homestead family on Tenmile Creek” and “The senior Stevens members bought the James Tyler place that was up the creek.” This is about five miles up the creek. “The Monkhouse couple homesteaded just east of the Stevens place.”⁹ (This does not fit with the US Forest Homestead files that list Monkhouse further down the creek. There is a connection between Monkhouse, Charles Knowles and what later became the Miller place). “They had one daughter, Maud, who later married a Bill Miller”.¹⁰ Clifford Smith bought and built a house on what was probably the original Louis Emmett homestead.¹¹ Louis Emmett most likely sold the place to Shipley who sold to Smith. The Miller family lived on a place across Tenmile Creek about ¼ mile south/east of the Smith place. The Stevens family also developed home sites and small farms about seven miles up the creek. It is probable that under the Homestead Act, a certain portion of land was supposed to be dedicated for schools. It can therefore be assumed that when the upper Tenmile Creek School was abandoned after a few years, the Stevens family purchased or took over that portion of the Tenmile Creek valley. According to Stan Poe the Stevens family bought up most of the upper portion of the valley.

The attraction of “free land” brought settlers to areas of Oregon that were unproductive at that time. There was no gold to be mined, most of the fur and meat animals had been reduced to unsustainable levels, easily taken marine animals (oysters, salmon, and clams) were over-harvested, and markets for timber were not developed. By 1900, the State of Oregon closed all elk hunting on the Oregon Coast. There remained some trade for less desired fur animals. A bounty for predators, up to \$75 each, encouraged the hunting of cougars with dogs.



Four cougars and young Norman Stevens, son of Jim Stevens, about 1940

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ Bruce, Kevin. US Forest Service, Corvallis, Oregon. Notes received in 2014. T15S-R11W. Section 33 (S1/2 of SE1/4) and Section 34 (S1/2 of SW1/4) - Louis Emmett received a Homestead Patent on this land 7/3/1902 (Serial# 5245). Since this occurred before the creation of the Siuslaw NF, there are no records on file with the Forest Service about this homestead.

A small forest product trade developed for cascara bark and other “greenery” products that were transported on existing roads and trails. Farming for meat and dairy products existed for some time, both on the upper portion of Tenmile valley as well as along the coastal portion. Stan Poe related a story that his grandmother told. As a young girl living north of Yachats in the early 1900s, every year a trader from Junction City would start at the Umpqua (now Reedsport) and purchased cows, horses, pigs, turkeys, chickens etc., and herd them up the coast to the Yaquina (Newport), then on to Junction City to sell. Generally agriculture in this area proved mostly unprofitable. The lower and coastal part of the valley was partitioned into vacation home cabins for more affluent professionals, while a good part of the upper valley was returned to the U.S. Government or was purchased by new land settlers or speculators. In the years after World War II (WWII) many of these speculators were small timber companies.

A series of fires on the Coast in the mid-1800s destroyed much of the standing timber in the valley. In the early 1900s most of the timber that was left standing, or had regrown, was not marketable because of transportation problems. Some timber in the years between 1900 and 1950 was sold for as low as \$5 to \$25 per log truck (5mbf). It was not until after WWII, and the ensuing building boom, when many settlers had left or sold their homesteads that prices increased rapidly. Technological improvements in harvesting, transportation and processing made logging timber profitable in the valley. The increased harvests on private lands led to demands for increased logging on public lands. At the same time general awareness of environmental issues and species protection called for protection of remaining federal lands. Calls for sustainability or rebuilding of species led to demands for habitat protection or rebuilding of species numbers. In the Tenmile Creek area this resulted in creation of wilderness areas south (Rock Creek) and north (Cummins Creek) of the valley.¹² Most lands in the valley are protected from logging by Federal and State agencies. Private foundations are purchasing land as well as property rights in order to protect the habitat of a list of terrestrial and marine species. (Map A-Section VIII)

III. US FOREST SERVICE 1906 HOMESTEAD ACT INFORMATION ON THE TENMILE CREEK AREA

Phylis Steeves (retired archaeologist USFS) suggested that additional information may be available through the USFS.

The book by Gerald W. Williams “The US Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest-A History” Oregon State University Press. Corvallis, Oregon 2009, provides a good review of the establishment of “Forest Reserves” in the Pacific Northwest. One of the primary purpose was to prevent what happened in the East of the US. This was harvesting of trees by large corporations and then moving on. Another interesting point made by Williams is

¹² Tonsfeldt, Ward. *Celebrating the Siuslaw- A Century of Growth*. Siuslaw National Forest. “The Siuslaw eventually designated three wilderness areas under the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984: Drift Creek, Cummins Creek, and Rock Creek.”

that the Indians used fire as their basic tool for managing for food production. Therefore in most accessible areas there were no large stands of big trees. As European expansion took place many areas became timber lands. Under two conflicting policies of opening the West for agricultural production and also to protect some lands for timber production a series of Land Grant Acts were passed. Some of these opened the West for settlements, but many acts also resulted in fraud and scams. The Forest Homestead Act of 1906 affected most of the settlements in the Tenmile Creek valley. Requirements were made that any homestead claim was being converted to agricultural production and that the claimant made honest attempts to “prove up” his claim for converting land in the “Forest Reserve” to agricultural production.

The second book by Ward Tonsfeldt, PhD “Celebrating the Siuslaw-A Century of Growth, Siuslaw National Forest, describes in more detail the policies of the USFS toward supporting these agricultural developments in these forest lands. The most interesting observations comes from the historical Homestead Records kept by the USFS. Although not complete they provide a clearer picture of “proving up” and also detail the hardships that the early Pioneers endured that tried to make a living in this areas. I have taken some of these observations and included them in this section. From these records one can conclude that the early homesteaders moved into the upper Tenmile Creek valley between 1900 and 1910. These were the Stevens, McCraes, and McKinney etc. Another settlement period seems to have been between 1915 and 1920. Most of these families moved out of the area when opportunity arose (or financial hardship forced a sale or foreclosure). The Stevens and McCrae families intermarried and lived in the valley into the 1970s. They benefited from the post war boom in timber prices. Available is an electronic copy of the US Forest Service that contains the original homestead review of claims. For the reader I am enclosing several selected comments by USFS claims officers. These reports describe the lifestyle of these times. An interesting project would be to take the provided Homestead Records and go through the Lane County Records to follow the ownership movement of these parcels through the last 100 years.

IV. HABITAT CONSERVATION

Abundant natural resources of the American West attracted and sustained early settlers. Many of these resources were abundant because they were not easily harvestable by native populations before the impact of European technology and world markets that predated the intrusion of Western settlers (see Chapter IX). For example, the elk herds in the Astoria area were maintained because the native population did not have guns that could harvest the animals from a distance. Within the three months that the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped in the Astoria area the elk herd hunting range expanded from their camp to five miles out of camp. Elk hunting in the Tenmile area was lucrative for early years, but was banned by the State by 1900, and was not opened until 1937-1951.



Frank, Jim and Ed Stevens with elk harvested in the Tenmile Creek valley (early 1950s).

For a few years fishing in the Siuslaw and Alsea rivers supported several canneries. Some of these canneries received fish harvested with nets from the small rivers between these larger rivers. George Stonefield remarked that "...every fall and winter, after we purchased the Bray place in 1913, at the mouth of Tenmile Creek, we fished commercially for silverside salmon. The biggest catch I ever made was two wagon boxes full, approximately two tons of salmon in a single night. We hauled them to a cannery in Waldport and usually received seven cents a pound."¹³

"George also had success salmon fishing in Tenmile Creek. He kept a boat at the creek, but had more success stringing a net across the creek. He was known to haul a spring salmon wagon load of salmon to Florence on occasion, where he was paid 25 cents a fish".¹⁴ In the Stevens' video, Ed Stevens remarked, "They did not fish for salmon until after WWI...one night they caught over four tons in one night...all silvers...in the spring they caught steelhead."

There is also a story that a man named Baker (Homesteader up on Tenmile Ridge, N.E. of Agate Creek) harvested 800 pounds of fish one night by net. This record is said to be found in ODFW files.

"In 1931 it was still possible to spear salmon at the mouth of the creek or, at exceptionally low tides to go to the beach and with hand-made wooden rakes, pull out of the low tide pools all of the Dungeness crab that could be eaten by a family of four".¹⁵

"Big Ben was a great steelhead fisherman...one winter he confessed...that he had taken 143 salmon from Tenmile Creek."¹⁶ Stan Poe recalls that his grandmother, who lived north of Yachats, told of the early settlers loading up their wagons with clams from the beach around Tenmile to take into Waldport, selling them and purchasing supplies to be hauled back up Tenmile valley.

Older residents of the Tenmile Creek area relate interesting stories about native use of the resources. Stan Poe remembers his grandmother describe how the native people would gather the ocean spawning smelt and put them into a depression in the earth that was lined and covered with skunk cabbage leaves. After a period of time the fat from the fish would be rendered and could be used for cooking or adding to other food sources.

Another example was related by the Stevens brothers. They claimed that the local native people would gather spawned fish carcasses and pound the meat into baskets with berries to provide a dried product for leaner times.

In the period from 1960 to 1990, when the ocean conditions were favorable for ocean salmon survival, and the Northwest became enamored with hatcheries as a cure for increased salmon runs, the regulatory bodies used an 80% coho salmon harvest criteria to manage the salmon fisheries. This means that harvest would take 80% of all salmon available. Because wild and hatchery fish comingle in their habitats, these criteria helped

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ *The Tenmile Story*. Compiled and written by Mary F. Beck. 1972

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ *ibid*

to devastate the wild salmon runs in most rivers on the Oregon Coast. Private hatchery businesses closed down in Oregon when the bottom line on profitability kept being red.

Tenmile Creek valley also experienced other pressures on its resources. In a 1986 video interview, the Stevens brothers remarked...” we used to have holes in the river that you could hide a house in...but then the Fisheries folks decided to pull out all of the logs, and that destroyed a lot of hiding places for the fish”. In a 2013 video interview Stan Poe remarked “Jim McCrae and I went to the USFS Ranger Station in Waldport to object about them pulling out all of the debris from the creek. We told them they were destroying the hiding places for the fish. They told us to write a complaint. We were not folks used to writing reports, so we did not follow up on our complaint.” That would have been in the mid-1960s, a result of Federal funds that came to Oregon following the storms and tsunami of the early 1960s. My (Hans Radtke) connection to the abundance of Tenmile Creek fish was a story by my uncle Adolf Gunther. He had purchased cabins on Highway 101 in Yachats. He and another relative went fishing on Tenmile Creek and caught a gallon pail full of small fish in a couple of hours. (These must have been out-migrating salmon smolts in the spring.)



A collection of fishing pictures from the McCrae family, 1940s-1950s.

“A rock quarry was established up the creek and much of the rock for the new Highway 101 came from there...”¹⁷ That probably was the in stream gravel quarry about one half mile from the mouth of the creek. An iron gravel sorter/loader is still visible at the site. There was another rock quarry developed by Lane County at about four miles. Fishing pressure, habitat degradation, and state and federal management decisions affected the basin’s ability to sustain the fishing resources of the area.

¹⁷ Beck Bogue, Barbara. *Proved Up on Tenmile Creek. The Story of the Early Settlers of Tenmile Creek.* Lane County. Oregon.

The end of WWII also presented another resource use of the valley. “Logging operations were heavy in the late 1950s”.¹⁸ This was at the mouth. Further up the creek the Guy Roberts Timber Company of Toledo purchased many of the old homesteads and logged the area. This continued through the 1900s. In addition the US Forest Service prepared and sold many timber harvest contracts in the valley, and subsequently replanted and treated the area with herbicides. I (Hans Radtke) got to know Vern Hayes of Yachats, who trapped in the valley for fur animals in the 1970s and 1980s. He remarked that “Ever since the Forest Service used herbicides on their land, I am not catching critters anymore.” This is in line with a presentation in 2016 by stream ecologist Charlie Dewberry from the Siuslaw valley, that points out the importance of leaves in a decomposing process as a food resource for insects and subsequently fish and small mammals. National, regional and local organizations and individuals raised concerns about species at risk and habitat destruction. Local public participation with the US Forest Service halted many of these planned sales in the Tenmile Creek valley. These local efforts (e.g. Tom Smith, deceased, and Paul Engelmeyer) and the lawsuits that were filed by national and regional environmental groups led to the NW Forest Plan of the 1990s. These local residents working with national as well as regional organizations and agencies have been the key force in habitat and species protection and land and easement acquisition in the valley.

In order to comply with the NW Forest Plan, logging of mature stands on Federal lands has been curtailed to rebuild the habitat and protect vulnerable species such as the Marbled Murrelet, Northern Spotted Owl, and Coho Salmon etc. Federal and State agencies (US Forest Service, US Dept. of Interior, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife) have partnered with environmental organizations and private citizens to purchase land and conservation easements in the valley. Some of these actions are as follows:

- Lower Tenmile area purchase of land by US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. About 40 acres. 1990s-2000s.
- Upper Tenmile valley land purchase by the US Forest Service. About 1200 acres. Late 1990s.
- National Audubon Society. Land Purchase of 120 acres at about 5 miles up the valley.
- Trust for Public Land, Pine Tree Foundation, Native Fish Society. Land purchase of 100 acres at 6.5 miles up the valley. Early 2000s.
- McKenzie River Trust working with State agencies, private foundations such as the Shotpouch Foundation, and private individuals to secure funds and conservation easements on about 500 acres between 2 and 6 miles up the valley.

The non-Federal, non-State lands and easements are managed by the McKenzie River Trust and the Audubon Society.

¹⁸ *The Tenmile Story*. Compiled and written by Mary F. Beck. 1972

Another notable public acquisition, through The Nature Conservancy is about 320 acres at the mouth of Big Creek, about three miles south of Tenmile Creek. These lands will be managed by Oregon State Parks.

The scenic area between Cape Perpetua and Heceta Head has some unique geologic formations. Steep valleys, formed over time, reach as far as the coastline. Two wilderness areas (Rock Creek about one mile south of Tenmile and Cummins Creek Wilderness about one mile north of the valley) (Map A-Section VIII) were established in 1984 as an indication of the awareness of these unique lands. This awareness has led to the establishment of a Marine Reserves and Protected Areas in State waters adjacent to these terrestrial Wilderness areas.

Fishing in Tenmile is allowed from December 1 to March 31 on a catch and release basis.

V. UPPER TENMILE EARLY SETTLEMENTS

The Tenmile valley was settled by homesteaders in the late 1890s and early 1900s. The early settlers survived by working in seasonal jobs away from home, selling greenery (cascara bark, ferns, huckleberry, foxglove), farming (sheep, cattle, horses and dairy) and trapping, hunting, and fishing. Elk hunting was lucrative but did not last long. In the US “At the outset of this century, elk population trends were down; two subspecies were extinct; three were on the brink of extinction; and one had been extirpated from most of its former range... there may have been 10 million elk in North America prior to the arrival of European man. By 1907 less than 100,000 elk were present and populations were declining.”¹⁹ By 1900 most of the elk herds on the coast were gone; commercial hunting was ended and recreational hunting was not allowed on the coast until 1937 and 1951 (It was closed during WWII). According to past and retired ODFW elk managers (Harold Sturgis of Albany and Craig Ely of Enterprise- telephone conversation February 2014), no Roosevelt Elk were ever transplanted to the Central Oregon Coast. According to Jim Stevens, there were no elk in Tenmile Creek valley when his parents homesteaded in 1904. “Three fellows on horses went up the creek before 1904 and killed a bunch of elk. They got 4 cents a pound for hindquarters and 3 cents a pound for front quarters.”

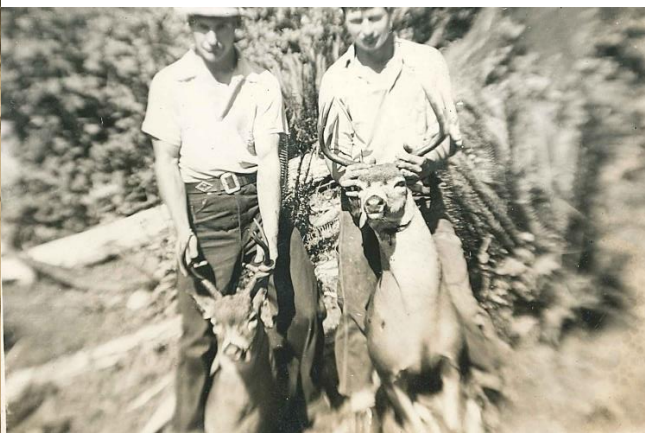
²⁰The story told by some other old folks is that few herds did survive in very remote areas east of Cape Creek and Big Creek. The present herds are most likely from these survivors of the early hunting/poaching period.

Deer were relatively abundant according to Jim Stevens. A person was allowed two buck deer a year. Bears were a problem for farmers who tried to raise sheep in the valley. They ran sheep in the valley in the 1920s, for about 10 years. One big bear killed about 40-50 sheep in one year.²¹ According to Bob Hayes (conversation with Hans Radtke in 1990s), his father trapped a pack of seven wolves in the upper ridges of the Yachats/Tenmile area in 1927.

¹⁹ Thomas, Jack Ward, and Dale E. Toweill. *Elk of North America*. Stackpole Books, 1982.

²⁰ Video interview Chapter VIII

²¹ Ibid



Members of Stevens and McCrae families display hunting and fishing success.

Transportation problems did not allow much timber harvesting and marketing until the construction of Hwy 101. Stan Poe relates that one of the earlier settlers tried to transport logs east to the community of Reed, then float the logs down Indian Creek and Lake Creek to the Siuslaw River, but this effort failed. In the 1920s and 1930s Hwy 101 was built to pass through the physical barriers of Cape Perpetua and the Sea Lion Caves areas. In 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built Forest Road 57 up the Tenmile Creek valley that later became a county road. Prior to the construction of this road there was only a trail to the homesteads.

WWII boosted timber prices so that small industrial timber companies bought out many of the homesteads. In the late 1940s and early 1950s several changes took place in the upper Tenmile Creek valley. The Guy Roberts Timber Company bought out the Leeper property (up the North Fork/Wildcat Creek), the Maderis homestead, Stevens, etc. Other properties went back to the US Forest Service (e.g. McKinney homestead). Altogether 1,200 acres were bought by the Guy Roberts Timber Company. Some of the land was commercially logged in the 1950s, 1970s and 1980s. These properties were then sold to the Georgia Pacific Timber Company, and resold to the Arrowhead Timber Company with financing from insurance companies such as Travelers Insurance Company. Diamond B Company purchased these lands, and after logging the remainder of the 1,200 acres in the 1990s (about 5Mbf) sold to the US Forest Service for habitat/conservation objectives.

The original homesteader and subsequent owner of the Smith place sold 160 acres for \$1,200 in the 1920s, who then sold the land (and house) to the Poe family in the 1960s. They then sold the land and house to the Radtke family in the 1970s. The house and 47 acres were sold to Beck and Mullane in the late 1980s. After some logging on the remaining acreage the approximate 100 acres was sold in the early 2000s through the Trust for Public Lands to the Pine Tree Foundation to be managed for conservation purposes. "The senior Stevens members (Charles, Edwin and Teresa Hayes) bought the James Tyler place."²² (Note; this connection may be true as the Beck book notes. However, no reference is made to a James Tyler in the US Forest Service Siuslaw District records). This was most likely in 1904. Ed Stevens, born in 1898, and Jim Stevens, born in 1901, continued to own property in the valley until the 1950s. The Stevens properties (at about six miles and most settled land up the North Fork of Tenmile Creek, as well as the land on the south side settled by Maderis and other settlers in this area, a total of about 1,200 acres) was sold to the Guy Roberts Timber Company after WWII. After logging the parcel in the late 1990s- early 2000s, the land was sold to Franz Dolp (Shotpouch Trust) to be managed by The McKenzie River Trust for conservation purposes. The McCrae homestead of 320 acres was sold to Steve Cole and family in the late 1970s. After logging portions of the land, the upper unlogged portion was sold to the Audubon Society. Another portion was sold to the Franz Dolp (Trust) to also be managed by The McKenzie River Trust. The original Cole property has been divided into several smaller parcels; some as conservation properties, others as living areas, and

²² Beck Bogue, Barbara. *Proved Up on Tenmile Creek. The Story of the Early Settlers of Tenmile Creek.* Lane County, Oregon.

others for recreational purposes. The original 320 acres are presently in eight different parcels. Wilsons (Grace and Willard) purchased 160 acres from the original landowners in the late 1940s. In 1972 the Radtke family purchased 87 acres; in 1973 the Heiligman family purchased the existing house and remaining acreage. Some of the Heiligman property was logged in the 1990s. Most of the Radtke property was placed in a conservation easement in 2006 to be managed by The McKenzie River Trust. The lower properties of the Tenmile Creek valley were mostly homesteaded by the Bray family. The Whitmore/Anderson family lived in the original house until about 2000 when upon the death of Bob and Betty Anderson the small parcel (about three acres) was sold. Much of the lower Tenmile Creek valley and beachfront was purchased by the Hall family. Most of the lower Tenmile Creek valley and beachfront has been developed for housing. A small portion has been sold to US Forest Service or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The following is an overview of the homesteads and families that lived in the Tenmile Creek valley (as can be developed from interviews and from earlier pamphlets/books written by Tenmile Creek area residents Bogue and Beck). The numbers in Section VI go with the numbers on the maps in Section VIII. These descriptions may not always agree with information made available by the US Forest Service, Siuslaw District homestead records. Some of the information may be different because of prior “squatters”, prior claims, sales or abandonment and noncompliance with the Forest Homestead Act of 1906. Rather than trying to rectify inconsistencies I am presenting both versions in some cases.

VI. TENMILE SETTLEMENTS DESCRIPTIONS

Summary of Homesteads filed on U.S. Forest Service land. Information provided by Kevin Bruce, USFS Siuslaw District. See also Section VIII-C3

Homestead #	Name	Homestead Map #	Address	Approx. Date Occupied/ Settled	Approx. USFS Date Claim
06408	Charles Knowles	1	Yachats	1905	1917
13609/03764	Charles E. Stevens	2	Waldport	1904	1910
011066	Emma McKinney	3a	Reed	1917	1922
011744	Ernest W. McKinney	3b	Reed	1919	1923
020552	Frank Stevens	4	Oceanview	1915	1921
010699	Howard R. Robinson	5	Yachats	1916	1922
010402	John L. Baker	6 a b	Oregon City	1906 1916	1914 1920
13892/03879	John C. Monkhouse	7	Oceanview	1906	1912
05173	Marguerite Stevens	8	Oceanview	1909	1917
14341/04132	Maud M. Miller	9	Oceanview	1906	1914
04106	Michael Conoboy	10	Oceanview	1906	1916
10204	Patrick Dolton	11	Marshfield	1905	1908
10900	Robert McCrae	12	Oceanview	1901	1908
621296	Samuel N. A. Maderis	13(a)(b)	Reed	1905 1907	1918 1918
868	Thomas Cullen	14	Florence	1914	1916
6-1830	William Comstock	15	Oceanview	1915	1916
010142	William Hoeltke	16	Reed	1915	1919
011066	Oscar Leeper	19	Reed	1915	1920

The above list is not complete. Missing in the US Forest Service records are the settlements that were homesteaded before the Forest Homestead Act of 1906, or were part of the State School Lands. For one settlement there are no official records. See discussion and description below, and under Comments.

Number 17 on Map II Section VIII. Originally State School Lands. Purchased by Prescott in 1906. Two miles east of the ocean on Tenmile Creek Road. T 15 R12. Section 36 N1/2N1/2.

Number 18 on Map II Section VIII. Occupied by Louis Emmett in 1902 before Forest Homestead Act of 1906. About 6 ½ miles east of the Ocean on Tenmile Creek Road. T 15 R11 S1/2 E1/4 Section 33; S1/2 SW1/4 Section 34.

Number 20 on Map II Section VIII. Mentioned as the Launey place by older residents. There is no mention of this settlements in the US Forest records. T 15 R 11 NE 1/4 Section 35.

Comments on Individual Homesteads

Comments of older residents of settlers between 1977 and 2014. Notes from the Beck/Bogue documents books and concerning settlers in the upper Tenmile Valley. Selected notes taken from the US Forest Service “claims” review. “...” indicates verbatim notes. The numbers indicate the place on the maps in Section VIII. Taken in sequence of dates filed and “claimed.”

1. Charles Knowles/ Miller

A house existed on this homestead until the 1990s. Evidence of the site exists today. The Millers moved out in the 1950s when the original bridge (at the Smith house) washed out and/or the property was purchased by the Guy Roberts Timber company.

This homestead is across Tenmile Creek south of McKinney Creek. The creek running through this property is known by the old timers as Knowles Creek, but it has no name on official maps. Mr. Knowles lived on this land with his wife and grandson. Mr. Knowles “squatted on the land in 1905 and filed when the township was surveyed in June 22, 1910...The dwelling is 18x30ft, two stoves, 7 rooms...about one acre of orchard contains 23 fruit trees consisting of pear, apple, cherry and prune. These trees are bearing. The crops raised are principally oat and rye, hay, garden truck and berries....The claimant owns 6 head of cattle and 4 head of horses....This claim is not used for trade or business except that of farming.”

This place/house was to be known as the Miller place. Maud Miller was a witness to the claimants proving up. Mrs. Miller homesteaded on the

lower part of Tenmile Creek area; Agate Creek. Mr. Monkhouse, also a homesteader on Tenmile, was married to Maude but they divorced. Maude Miller must have bought the place from Charles Knowles, which then became the Miller place. According to Stan Poe the Knowles place was bought by a family who lived on the place for some time. It was then bought by the Millers. It is speculated that Maud Miller, who claimed a place on the lower Tenmile area, is the same as the family that bought the Miller place. The Knowles family (Archie) is a prominent pioneer family in the Florence area. It is assumed that there is a family connection between Charles and Archie Knowles.

2. Charles Stevens

The land was occupied by 1894 (before the US Forest Act of 1906). Inspection under the 1906 Act in 1909 described this as having a “house 16x24 feet with two levels. Cultivated land grew potatoes, hay (8 tons), eight cattle, donkey, 5 sheep and 15 chickens....There is no merchantable timber on the claim. Even if there was any timber “...no commercial value, there being no market. The claimant was away much of the time...working in Florence.” Charles Stevens raised some cattle (20-30 head) and tried sheep ranching in the area in the 1920s. Coyotes and bears were the main predators that ended sheep ranching.



Charles Stevens moved to Tenmile in 1904.

The Stevens family purchased this property from Tyler, a homesteader in the early 1900s (before the 1906 US Forest Service Homestead Act). The property was purchased by the Guy Roberts Timber Company after WWII. The property was logged in the 1980s and the 1990s. In the early 2000s Franz Dolp (through the Shotpouch Foundation) purchased the property and sold a conservation easement to be managed by The McKenzie River Trust.

There were three Stevens (Charles, Frank and Marguerite) that filed or purchased, or accumulated properties in the upper Tenmile Creek valley. Charles Stevens was the great grandfather of Robert McCrae, born 1954. The Stevens family later acquired the Maderis property. They sold most of their properties after WWII to Guy Roberts Company of Toledo, Oregon.

3. Emma and Ernest McKinney

- a. Emma McKinney Homestead. This claim was up the North Fork of Tenmile Creek; about ½ to one mile east of the convergence of Wildcat and North Fork. The relationship with the Ernest McKinney family is not known. “Mrs. Emma McKinney Reed, Oregon, and one son reside on the claim...the son is 11 years old. The only absence during the life of the entry has been six weeks to two months each year away employed as a nurse...The house is a log structure 16ft x 20ft with a sawed timber floor and shake roof...Claimant has 4 cattle, 2 horses and 8 chickens...there is no timber value on the claim.”
- b. Ernest McKinney Homestead. About half mile up and west of McKinney Creek. Five children grew up here. There was another cabin owned by Maggie Stevens in the area. Evidence of meadows and trails exist today. “His family consists of his wife and two small children. Family resides on the claim...It is about 7 miles from the ocean...Family was absent about two months during the summer of 1922 at the time that the youngest child was born...when all the family was out picking hops each fall...12 trees of different fruit varieties has been set out but are not doing very well. One tenth acre was strawberries, also not thrifty... as said does not seem adopted to their growth...Claimant owns one horse, one burro, one cow and about a dozen chickens.”

These properties on McKinney Creek must have been reverted to the U.S. Forest Service. There is no record of this land being bought by the Stevens family or anyone else.

4. Frank Stevens.

“Owing to the good residence and war record of the above claimant, it is believed that no protest should be made by the Forest Service against the issuance of the patent in this case.”

The house and barn were standing until 1976 when Guy Roberts Timber Company burned the house down. A pond still exists by a pedestrian bridge that crosses Tenmile Creek for trails to the Maderis and Lowery homesteads. A school was established just east of the Stevens homestead (on Tenmile Creek Road). The school existed for a year or two. Children attending were Leepers, McKinney, Stevens and McCrae. The building and a small salary was provided for a teacher. The school moved to the lower Tenmile Creek area after a few years.

Frank Stevens' descendants, Ed and Jim, were interviewed by me, Hans Radtke, in the late 1980s. See Section VIII C-1. Jim could not hear and Ed was almost blind...Ed served in WWI and suffered mustard nerve damage. In the 1980s interview Ed Stevens was asked what he remembers from his service in WWI. He said, "...the pretty girls in Paris." They were both in their 90s. The Stevens family was the most dominant family in the valley. According to Stan Poe the Stevens bought up most of the property in the upper Tenmile Valley.

5. Howard Robinson

The homestead was abandoned. Located between the Stevens homestead and the Miller homestead.

This is a homestead on the south side of Tenmile Creek and east of the Knowles Homestead. Not much is known of this settler. "They remained two weeks and claimant again left for ship yards at Marshfield while his wife stayed on the claim...house 16 x 32 value \$400 was built but destroyed by fire...grazing, one horse, 6 cattle, 80 goats and 15 chickens..."

I believe this homestead was part of the purchase that Guy Roberts Timber Co. made after WWII.

6. John Baker

Filed two claims (6a and 6b) about 1 mile from the Pacific Ocean at the headwaters of Agate Creek. There are remnants of this claim on USFS 5694 about 3 miles up from Tenmile Creek Road. The story from the old settlers is that Mr. Baker lived there and finally brought a wife down from Portland to live with him. But she left very soon not wanting to live in such a secluded spot. From the US Forest Service claim records, "Is a single man. He lives on the claim and has no other home. He has lived on the land continuously...with the exception of a few weeks now and then

while working on the county roads...The house is neatly furnished and is habitable at all seasons of the year...Last season claimant harvested about four tons of oat hay, seventy gallons of strawberries and 350 pounds of honey. The hay crops were fed to claimants stock on the claim...Claimant has two cows, and one mule which graze on the claim...On May 8, 1915, he broke his arm and was unable to work until late in Sept. 1915...There is no timber on the claim.”

7. John C. Monkhouse

A claim that was either not accepted or the claim was later abandoned and returned to the US Forest Service. There is not much evidence of the claim at present. “...Is unmarried but has daughter and divorced wife living in the vicinity.” This must be Maud Miller.

“The entire claim is hilly and bench land...the canyons are rough and steep...the house is a two-room log structure...about 6 acres has been cleared...the only timber of any value is about 20 old growth Douglas Firs scattered...”

8. Marguerite Stevens.

“Her sister lived with her the greater part of the time. She claims to have no other home, although her father and mother live in the vicinity of the claim...The house is very poorly furnished...No farm implements or work tools were on the claim other than a hoe and axe...The value of the house is about \$50 but the claimant values it at \$200...All buildings are constructed of split cedar material...Grazing: Six cattle, 3 sheep, 2 goats and 26 chickens ...good faith seems to be apparent.”

9. Maud Miller

“A claim on the lower Tenmile Creek area about ½ mile up Agate Creek...It is classed as bench land...She lived on the claim until about the middle of March, 1908. She then secured a position in Florence teaching school...Her absence...was due to her getting married” (hence her name was changed from Monkhouse to Miller) “...her farming implements consist of a plow, harvest, garden and work tools...There is no timber of any value on the claim.”

10. Michael Conoboy

There is no mention of Michael Conoboy from past discussion with older people familiar with the Valley’s history. A picture of the cabin was found in the OSU library (The Siuslaw National Forest Collection. House on Homestead of Mike Conoboy, located on Tenmile Creek. Date 1938-07-02. Image 1996-065). The settlement seems to have been prior to the Forest Homestead Act of 1906. “About 40 acres of the claim is rich bottom and low bench land...When he went to Marshfield and worked in the Nelson Iron Works until June, 1907, at which time he returned to the

claim and remained there until March, 1908, at which time he went to Beaver Hill, Coos County and worked at logging for one Vic Hirk ...at which time he went to Marshfield and worked in a coal mine until May 13, 1912...There is no market for product in the vicinity of the claim, hence the crops are fed to the claimants stock...claimant has 4 cattle and 3 chickens...claimant was hurt by falling through a railway trestle on October 1, 1910, causing injuries...claimant has not filed evidence of citizenship.” Most likely this claim was reverted back to the U.S. Forest Service because of the citizen issue. Part of the property later became a US Forest Service campground.

11. Patrick Dalton/Bray/Whitmore/Anderson house and meadow.

The Whitmores and Andersons lived in the original house and additional house until about 2000. The property is inhabited today. Much of the area around the house has been purchased by the USFS or ODFW for conservation purposes.

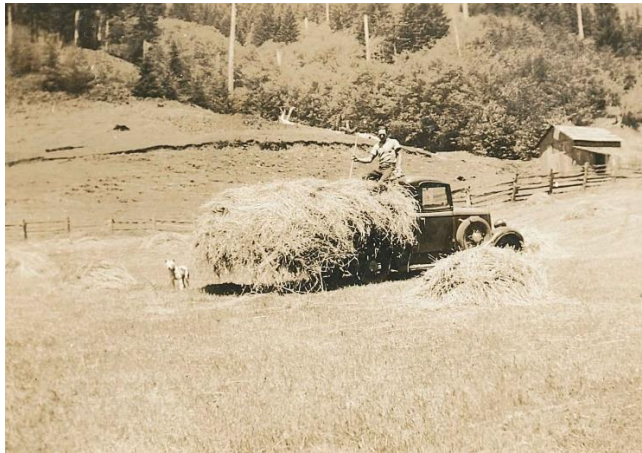
From the U.S. Forest Service records and subsequent information available the following scenario probably describes the Dalton property claim.

It seems that Mr. Dalton claimed or squatted on this land prior to the 1906 Homestead Act. He subsequently filed a claim on this land in 1907...A lot of discussion in the records as to the validity of this land claim. Not living on the property; not being a citizen, not working and improving the land; etc. The U.S. Forest Service recommended that the claim be canceled (May 9, 1908). Mr. Dalton hired a lawyer and consequently won because the leading witness for the U.S. Forest Service did not show up at the trial.

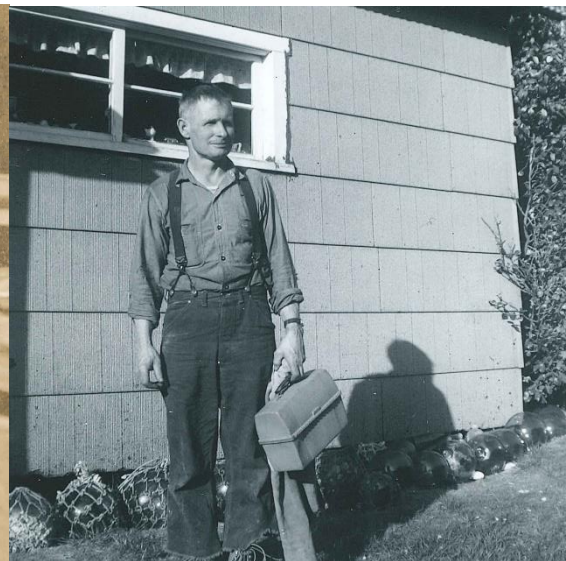
Subsequently that part of the land was sold to a member of the Bray family. The Bray family previously sold their claim along the oceanfront to the Stonefield and Hall families and moved to San Francisco. Joe Bray moved back and married Vivian. When he died, the land was left to his wife who married a Mr. Whitmore. Mrs. Whitmore and subsequently daughter Betty, who married Bob Anderson, lived on this 3 ½ acre piece of land until the early 2000s. Betty Anderson told the story of a fire in 1951 that destroyed the “resort” Bathurst located just north of the mouth of Tenmile Creek. According to Betty, her mother worked at the resort. The fire was so bright that it could be seen from their home half a mile up Tenmile. The rest of the land was purchased by the Hall family who sold it to USFS and ODFW.

12. Robert McCrae

Robert McCrae settled and claimed this land in 1901, prior to the Forest Homestead Act of 1906.



Cutting and storing hay in the 1940s for the 20-30 cows that Jim McCrae raised in the valley.



Robert McCrae, original homesteader, and Jim McCrae, resident of Tenmile and logger, returning from work. 1969.

“House 16x18 feet contains one room- fire place- 2 ½ windows – built of split material - value \$50...Hay- potatoes and vegetables...no timber of value...number of cattle 12 head....This land is most valuable for agriculture and grazing purposes.”

Stan Poe relates a story about a young child- about 2 years old – that crawled up a ladder inside the cabin and fell into a tub of boiling water – and died. This child was probably a brother Jim McCrae.

Jim McCrae (a logger and a descendent of the original McCrae homesteaders) lived on the original homestead (of 320 acres) until the late 1970s. The original McCrae homestead is still inhabited today. McCrae built a house a few hundred yards from the original cabin. Jim McCrae, who lived until the 1980s married Doris McKinney, who grew up on the McKinney homestead. She drove a bus for the Lincoln County School District that transported children to Yachats/Waldport schools until the early 1980s.

The Steve Cole family purchased the property from the McCraes. After logging portions of the 311 acres the land was subdivided into several home sites and/or recreational/investment parcels. Going east to west the property is divided into the following (approximate): 120 acres purchased by the Audubon Society for conservation purposes, about two acres for a home site for the Hood/Bur family, some 40 acres purchased by Franz Dolp for the Shotpouch Foundation, approximately 40 acres owned by Marie Cole with a recreational cabin, Kolstad family 2 acre lot, Sarah Scholfield cabin and buildings on about 40 acres, Baumann/Burkle house and about 2 acres, Chuck Willer family about 27 acres, Cade family house and about 40 acres.

13. Samuel Maderis (13a and 13b)

Located about one half mile south of the N and S fork of Tenmile Creek and just west of the Bonneville transmission power line. Presently there are two ponds and some remaining meadows in this homestead area. The ponds empty into tributaries of Tenmile Creek. Maderis, his wife, and a son, Lyman, settled here in the early 1900s. Lyman, in mid-January of 1916, was expecting a letter from “back east”, so he set off to get the mail at Beers house on Indian Creek. According to the Stevens brothers he was not very “woods smart”. When he left to walk across the coast range, he got caught in a snow storm and took a wrong turn on what is now USFS 58. His body was found in April. He is buried close to USFS 58. Sam Maderis lived on his homestead until he got sick (1922). The Stevens family took care of him in his last days. For that he signed the homestead over to the Stevens family. Sam Maderis is buried along Tenmile Creek Road at about 7 miles. There are no other known burial sites in the upper valley.

According to Lane County records, Lyman Maderis (February 1898-January 15, 1916) was the son of Samuel Maderis and Annie McMahan. Born in Spencer County, Indiana, Lyman died of exposure during a snow storm as he was attempting to cross the Coast Range in Western Lane County, Oregon. He was 17 years old at the time of his death. His mother predeceased him. His father died on 26 April 1922 on Tenmile Creek in Lane County, Oregon. His story is written up in Lane County histories..."Maderis Tragedy" in Siuslaw pioneer Museum, Florence, Oregon. The Lyman Maderis grave is located at the junction of US Forest Service roads 37 and 58.

The Forest Service claimant inspector was not very impressed with Sam Maderis' place. "...building foundation and combination house and barn...the horse end of the house was much cleaner and more sanitary than the main end of the barn...while in the other end kettles and dishes were filthy and sour with some or several past cookings, and apparently the bedding and other articles had been equally and slothfully unkempt...The cattle, I was informed, belonged to the same of the Stevens who live down on Tenmile Creek a few miles...The following articles were seen in the cabin: Holy Bible, 20#'s of salt, pint can of milk, 1 box of matches, ½ sack of potatoes, 1 gal jar, 1 broken mirror etc.....He was employed mostly as a mill hand at Florence, Oregon, and as a night watchman at the stone quarry on the Siuslaw River...The claim does not have the appearance of a permanent home...he will continue his residence there permanently and that failure to construct decent improvements and cultivate the land is due to lack of management and ambition rather than intent."

14. Thomas Cullen

There is not much information available about Thomas Cullen and William Hoeltke (Noeltke). One of the tributaries that runs into Tenmile Creek is names Cullen Creek on the US Forest Service map. Their claims southeast of Maderis Homestead were either turned back to the Forest Service or bought by the Stevens family which then sold about 1200 acres to the Guy Roberts Timber Company. The US Forest claims records does mention that part of the claim..."special use denied..." There was some question of a telephone line right-of-way. As one travels up Tenmile Creek Road, at the crest about 14 miles, there is evidence of telephone line insulators on two trees along the road. Stan Poe makes reference to a Launey place up above Maderis. According to Stan Poe a cabin existed there until the 1950s. Poe tells of Tubby Beers (from Reed) visiting and relating about old times. The name Launey would come up in these conversations. So either the Cullen or Hoeltke claim was occupied by the Launeys at one time.

15. William Comstock

There is no information available on the Comstock settlement. It could be that this was integrated into the McKinney settlement. The McKinneys and Leepers, along with the Stevens, formed a community on the upper part of the Tenmile Valley. For several years a school was operated adjacent to the Stevens property where children from the McKinney and Leeper family attended. Remnants of the McKinney settlement are still evident today.

16. William Hoeltke (or Noeltke)

“...a rolling land intersected by several small streams which form the headwaters of Tenmile Creek...The claimant first settled on the claim and established residence on June 20, 1915...Evidence of residence, such as cultivator, presence of stock, farm implements, and household furniture are plentiful...1 ½ tons of carrots, 1200 pounds of sugar beets, 25 bushels of potatoes and 3 tons hay...6 head of cattle and 2 burros...The claim contains no merchantable timber...”

17. Wilson Property (Heiligman/Radtke)

Wilsons purchased the house and property in 1946. Grace and Willard Wilson lived on this property until the mid-1970s. Willard worked in a Mapleton sawmill. They invested in and operated a roadside restaurant on Hwy 101 near milepost 172 called The Burger Den. They lost a two-year old son Russell in a vehicle accident. A waterfall on the property is named Russell Falls. Wilsons logged most of the 160 acres in 1951 for a price of \$5 per mbf. (That is about \$25 per log truck). In the 1970s about 90 acres was sold to the Radtke family. There is a residence on the Radtke property, the rest of the land is being managed as a conservation easement by The McKenzie River Trust. The Heiligman family purchased about 70 acres and the Wilson house in the 1970s. Some of the Heiligman property was logged in the 1990s. The original house burned down in the 1990s and was replaced by a new residence.

John Monkhouse (see homestead description number 7) who filed a claim just north of “Wilson” property in 1906 seems to have not completed the patent to the claim. So it must have reverted back to the US Forest Service at some time. Stan Poe remembers seeing remnants of settler activity on this property when the USFS 5694 Road (Million \$ Highway) was being built in the 1970s. There is a connection between the Monkhouse, Miller, and Knowles settlers mentioned in the Knowles comments.

From Kevin Bruce, “T15S-R12W, Section 36 (N ½ of N ½) = this was state land, so it does not show up as being patented under Homestead laws. I am not sure when or to whom the land was sold to prior to your family purchasing part of the property in 1972. You could go to the county

courthouse and research information on the property title to clear this up.” Which I (Hans Radtke) subsequently did.

According to Lane County records, MW Prescott purchased 160 acres from the State of Oregon in 1906 for \$400. This was part of section 36 that was designated as lands to be sold for school funding. The rest of this section 36 was returned to the US Forest Service as part of the Oregon Elliott Forest. MW Prescott sold 160 acres to Willard R and Grace P. Wilson in 1946 for \$4,000.

18. Emmett/Smith/Poe

From Kevin Bruce, “T15S-R11W, Section 33 (S ½ of SE ¼) and Section 34 (S ½ of SW ¼) = Louis Emmett received a Homestead Patent on this land 7/3/1902 (Serial # 5245). Since this occurred before the creation of the Siuslaw NF, there are no records on file at the forest about the homestead.”

The original homesteader sold the 160 acres to Clifford Smith in the 1920s who built a home on the property. Ruth Smith was from the Leeper family. There may also have been a family named Shepley between 1902 and 1920’s. The Poe family purchased the property in the 1960s (Stan Poe was a logger), and sold to the Radtke family in the 1970s. Part of the property and the house was sold to Curtis Beck and Mike Mullane in the 1980s. The other 100 acres was sold to The Trust for Public Lands for conservation purposes. Both parcels were partially logged in the 1980s and 1990s. There is also some indication that homesteaders named Conoboy settled for some limited time in the early 1900s on 160 acres between the Smith house and the Stevens property.

19. Oscar Leeper

North Fork of Tenmile Creek/Wildcat Creek. From Kevin Bruce, “T15S-R11W, Section 35 (NE ¼) = I found the record associated with the homestead patent of Oscar Leeper. I have attached it to go along with those I sent previously.”

Leeper homestead and meadows (Wildcat joins North Fork of Tenmile Creek) about half to 1 mile up the North Fork from Tenmile Creek road (about 8 mile marker). Evidence of this homestead can still be found today.

There is some evidence of a homestead about half mile up Wildcat Creek, but presently totally abandoned.

Two Leeper brothers built homestead cabins up further on the North Fork; but these homesteads were abandoned.

Leeper's wife was Ernest McKinney's sister. See 3b.

"Oscar M. Leeper, Reed, Oregon, has wife and three children of school age. They live on the claim...the soil is very rich and fertile...during the summer seasons of 1918 and 1919 Claimant worked for the Forest Service on trail and fire patrol work. His wife also worked, cooking for a trail crew during the summer of 1919. Claimants children remained on the claim during their fathers and mothers absence...the house is 12x18 feet with bedroom 8x8 feet and kitchen 8x10 feet, as an addition, one room downstairs and one alone making four rooms in all...Claimant has one horse, seven cattle, seventeen chickens and one dog...the timber has no market value owing to the location...about five months after filing claimant lost first and second fingers in a shingle saw and was unable to perform manual labor. A few months after, on account of abscesses, an operation was necessary rendering the claimant still less able to improve his claim."

20. Launey

Up on a ridge above Tenmile Creek (South) between Maderis and Miller Homesteads. There is no mention of this homestead in the U.S. Forest Service records.

VII. OBSERVATIONS BY HANS RADTKE ON TENMILE CREEK VALLEY SETTLEMENTS.

The settlements along the mouth of Tenmile Creek were most likely "claimed" and "patented" under earlier western land settlement acts. The history of some of these acts are described in books by Gerald W. Williams and Ward Tonsfeldt. These early settlements involved the Bray, Stonefield and Hall families. The developments around the mouth of Tenmile Creek were mainly vacation homes from the Valley (especially Corvallis). However, prior to the Forest Homestead Act of 1906 some settlements were claimed or "squatted on" through previous acts. One of these is the Louis Emmett claim that became the Smith, then the Poe, and later the Mullane residence. Some other settlements also could have been filed earlier with other acts. The Wilson (later Heiligman and Radtke) property was sold to a settler named Prescott in 1907 by the State of Oregon, according to Lane County Records. This property is in Section 36, part of which was to be used for funding schools.

Not all settlement claims were "patented". Two of the USFS reviews indicated that the claimant was either not a US citizen and therefore the claim was not accepted, or the settlement seems to have been abandoned and therefore the property was reverted back to the USFS. This could have been for the inability to pay fees/taxes or for not being able to make a living in these remote areas.

When reviewing the residence of the claimants, and the witnesses, it seems that most of the same people signed affidavits for different people. Most of the claimants and witnesses seem to have come from two areas. One was the community of Reed (10-20 miles east of Tenmile Creek) that developed a saw mill in later days (subsequently abandoned) and is presently owned by the Beers family. The other community was Ocean View, which is presently the Sea Rose RV Resort at Mile Post 171 on Highway 101. This was the area of the recreation/vacation homes described in the Beck/Boque pamphlets/books. It was recently pointed out by a new resident of the Tenmile Creek area (Stacy Berube) that the Bray family and the McCrae family come from the same county in Illinois. So, connections played a part in the settlement process.

Land claimants and settlers faced some very hard times. Most worked in mills, road construction, agriculture in other areas of the state in order to make a living. Farming on these lands barely produced enough to feed a family and in most cases there was no merchantable timber or no available transportation available to get timber to market. While natural resources (greens, chittum bark etc.) provided some income, other resources were not as abundant as generally thought. There is no mention in the “claim reviews” of elk herds or even deer damage to agricultural crops that one would expect in these areas. Elk herds were gone by the early 1900’s and fish only provided some occasional income or food. Trapping was mostly for small fur animals that brought in limited income.

Some settler families (such as the Stevens) managed to prosper and accumulate land and receive their rewards when timber prices increased and transportation and harvesting techniques improved. Some other settlers continued to live in the area while working as loggers, in mills or for the Forest Service (McCraes, Smith, and Millers).

VIII. UPPER TENMILE CREEK AREAS MAPS

- A. Cummins and Tenmile Watershed
- B. Numbered Early Tenmile Creek Settlements
- C. Electronic Copies
 - 1. Video Interview with Jim and Ed Stevens
 - 2. Video Interview with Stan Poe
 - 3. Scans on DVD “Proving Up” reviews by US Forest Service.
Provided by Kevin Bruce, USFS, Siuslaw District, Corvallis,
Oregon
 - 4. Scanned USB copy of *The Tenmile Story* by Barbara Beck Bogue
(note page 14 is in wrong sequence)
 - 5. Scanned USB copy of *Proved Up on Tenmile Creek* by Barbara
Beck Bogue and Susanna Beck Yunker
 - 6. USB copy of this paper *Upper Tenmile Creek (Lane County)*
Homesteaders and Early Settlers by Hans Radtke

A. CUMMINS AND TENMILE WATERSHED

Cummins and Tenmile Watershed, Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon

Land acquisition and conservation easement tools are being used for restoring watersheds and recovering species—

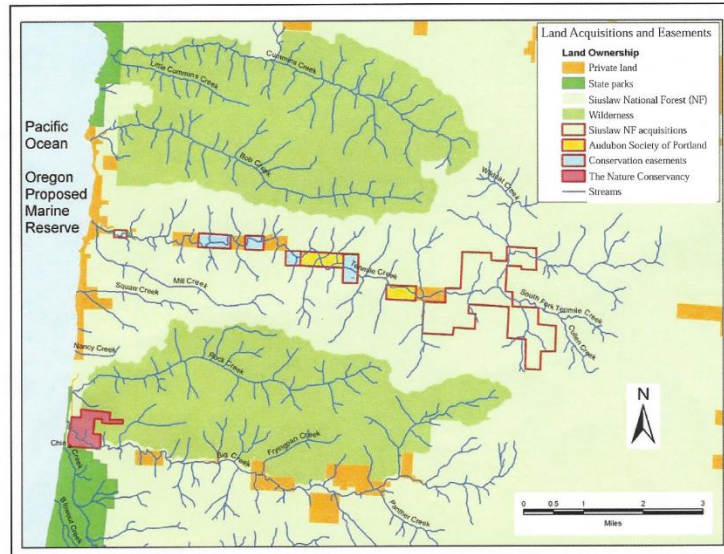
Land acquisitions and conservation easements are a major component of the restoration strategy in the Cummins/Tenmile watershed. Although most of the watershed is managed by the Forest Service, a large number of the major fish-bearing streams were located on private land prior to implementation of the land acquisition program.

Working with the Trust for Public Lands and local landowners, the Forest Service, Audubon Society of Portland, and The Nature Conservancy have acquired 1,900 ac and 10 mi of critical habitat for threatened coho salmon in the Cummins/Tenmile watershed. In

addition, the Tenmile Conservation Program worked with the McKenzie River Trust and local landowners to complete a 500-ac conservation easement package to protect habitat for multiple species dependent on older forest habitat, including an additional 2 mi of coho salmon streams. Funding for the land acquisitions and easements came from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Landowner Incentive Program; Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; and Oregon State Parks.

The restoration strategy was recently extended into the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the Cummins/Tenmile watershed with a proposal to make a marine reserve in Oregon's state waters. These ongoing efforts combined with the aquatic conservation strategy in the Northwest Forest Plan have protected ecologically significant habitat, and they have enabled implementation of a variety of restoration activities that work with natural processes to recover depleted and federally Endangered Species Act listed species.

Contact Jack Sleeper (jsleeper@fs.fed.us) for more information.



IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF DIARIES AND SELECTED BOOKS ABOUT THE
EARLY IMPACT OF EUROPEAN CONTACTS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN
CULTURES AND RESOURCES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

There are several selected diaries, or books based on diaries, available that describe the effect on native cultures and natural resources of the rush to exploit the Pacific Northwest.

- A. Irving, Washington. "Astoria, or Anecdotes of an Enterprize Beyond the Rocky Mountains". University of Nebraska, first published in 1886. The historical memoirs by Washington Irving tend to glorify the men that explored the Northwest.
- B. Stark, Peter. "Astoria: Astor and Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire. A Tale of Ambition and Survival on the Early American Frontier". Harper Collins, 2015. A very readable and informative book about people and places in the period between 1810-1814.
- C. Holmes, Kenneth L. "Ewing Young, Master Trapper." Binfords and Mort publishers, 1967. A central figure in trapping and exploring the West, 1822-1841. Ewing was one of the first settlers in the Willamette Valley.
- D. Binns, Archie. "Peter Skene Ogden, Fur Trader." Binfords and Mort publishers, 1967. In 1825 he made the first recorded exploration of the inland Oregon region.
- E. Irving, Washington. "Adventures of Captain Bonneville 1831-1833." National Geographic Adventure Classics Series, 2003.
- F. Ewers, John C. "The Horse in Blackfoot Culture". Smithsonian Institute, 1969. This book provides some estimate of the earliest introduction of horses to the Pacific Northwest (late 1600s to early 1700s).
- G. Beal, Merrill D. "I will Fight No More Forever, Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War". University of Washington Press, 1964. Describes the ordeals the native populations faced as the western expansion overwhelmed the existing cultures.

A reading of these diaries and books based on recollections provide a context of the period of the early western settlers. European technology and material, steel, guns, alcohol, market for furs, and diseases, had greatly affected the existing native cultures. By the time the early settlers moved into the Pacific Northwest, the great native cultures had mostly been decimated. Valued resources such as beavers were greatly reduced and food resources such as elk were almost eliminated from the Pacific Northwest.