

Levi Pennington

People

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1960

### Add Miscellany

Levi T. Pennington

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Add Miscellany.

After Oregon Yearly Meeting seceded from the Five Years Meeting, this action was being discussed at a session of Western Yearly Meeting in which my father was pastor of a mission church. During this discussion my father remarked, "Levi didn't secede."

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#### JUST FACTS -- NO EXPLANATION

The children of Josiah and Mary Pennington believed that if one of us were on the other side of the earth ~~in~~ and in trouble, Mother would know about it. I could tell stories about such things, and I'll not tell you the most marvelous of the things that compelled belief in something beyond our understanding, ~~but~~ I'll tell you one instance, just the facts, -- no explanation.

My oldest sister and my oldest brother with their families lived at Empire, a lumber town thirty miles west of Traverse City, but much farther by the way you had to <sup>go</sup>. The town had no telegraph, <sup>our home,</sup> no telephone, and certainly no radio or television. There was no communication with the outside world except by steamer on Lake Michigan and a stage from Lake Ann, on the Manistee & Northeastern railroad.

Mother went to Empire, by rail to Lake Ann and by stage the 25 mile drive, most of it through "the forest primeval." It was a tiresome trip, She had the evening meal with my brother and his family, and went to bed early.

At the ~~meal~~ six-o'clock breakfast -- my brother's work started at seven -- she asked him when the stage left Empire for Lake Ann. She said, "Have him stop here." Thinking that she might want to get a letter into the mail at Lake Ann, he suggested that he could take it and give it to the stage driver, but she said that she must go back home. Astonished that she should make this long trip and stay just overnight when she had planned to be in Empire for at least a week, he asked why on earth she felt that she needed to go back. She said she did not why, but she knew she must go back.

And go back she did, to find that my brother, next younger than I had had a sudden and violent attack of pneumonia <sup>during the night</sup> and she was needed at home.

It was years later that I was telling of this incident to some friends, and when I stopped, thinking I had finished the story, my father, who was in the group, said, "Why don't you finish it?" I said, "That's all I know of it." With a smile, and as if it were nothing unexpected in their relations with one another no matter how many miles separated them, he said, "I met her at the train."

Just facts -- no explanation.