

Levi Pennington

People

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The Hoover (Minthorn) House

Levi T. Pennington
George Fox University

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THE HOOVER (MINTHORN) HOUSE

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You ought to see the Hoover House at Newberg, the house in which the boy Herbert Hoover lived with his uncle, Dr. H. J. Minthorn, and his aunt and cousins, after the future president of the United States had lost his mother, the Quaker woman preacher of West Branch, Iowa, and his father, the village blacksmith. You should see the bed in which the boy Hoover slept; the pasture across the street, ~~now~~ now Herbert Hoover Park, where he weeded the garden and cared for the cow of his foster father, and the ponies which he drove to attend his patients -- he was the first physician in this part of the state.

The House Restored

After the removal of Dr. Minthorn and his family and the nephew who had now become a definite part of the family, the house was owned and occupied by a number of families, some of whom did remodeling jobs that changed the house greatly from what it had been when the Minthorns and Herbert Hoover lived there. And for years after ^{the project} the project of securing the property and making it a national shrine and museum, with Dr. Burt Brown Barker making the first substantial financial gift for the purpose, Pacific College tried in vain to secure it. This college, now known as George Fox College, grew out of Friends Pacific Academy, the first school in this area beyond the grammar grades, of which Dr. Minthorn was the first head. At last the college secured it, and some funds were raised for its restoration. Then The Herbert Hoover Foundation was organized, a non-profit corporation, and the work of restoration was begun.

Through the helpful memory of members of the Nicholson family, who occupied the house after the Minthorns had removed to Salem, it has been possible to restore the building to just what it was when Herbert Hoover lived there. At the time of the dedication of the place on his 81st birthday, he said "It is just perfect."

Contents of the House

It would not be practicable to give a catalogue of all the interesting things to be seen in the Hoover House. Some of the original furniture has been located and secured; many of the books in Dr. Minthorn's library were preserved by his only living daughter, Mary Minthorn Strench, and are on the shelves of the old library-book case, along with all the books that Herbert Hoover has written and all that have been written about him; from parlor to woodshed everything that is not part of the original contents of the house is definitely of the period, the old big family bible, the boot jack, the ~~off~~ cradle which the harvester swung, one of the finest sets of bed room crockery ever made, Pictures of the Hoovers and the Minthorns, a fine portrait of Dr. Minthorn given by the Oregon State Medical Society, the favorite White House chair of Lou Henry Hoover, whose untimely death left her husband the loneliest man on earth, old wood stoves, hanging lamps, one of the finest collections of tea-leaf pattern china to be found anywhere. Just a suggestion of the contents of the Hoover House.

The Grounds

The effort has constantly been to make everything as near as possible such as it was in the 1880's. The white picket fence, the well house with its bucket and pulley (No well now, but it looks just as it did seventy-five years ago), the wooden walks, another outbuilding that does not serve the same purpose that it did in the old days, the old apple tree (half of it, that is, propped up and still bearing heavily -- the other half broke off), the pear tree from which Herbert ate his first pears (and so many of them that it caused trouble in his interior department as serious to him then as trouble in the U. S. Interior Department many years later.)

Really you ought to visit the Hoover House.

How to Get There.

In driving into Newberg from the direction of Portland, you travel on U.S.99W, which from Tigard to Newberg is Herbert Hoover Boulevard. At the street at the west end of the fill across the north end of Herbert Hoover Park as you enter Newberg, turn left, and you are at the parking area just across the street from the Hoover House. Coming from the other direction you drive through the main business section of the city to River street, the one at the end of the fill, and turn right, and there you are.

You really ought to visit the Hoover House.

The house property

In this part of the story... the house property... the Hoover House... the grounds... the effort has constantly been to make everything as near as possible such as it was in the 1880's.