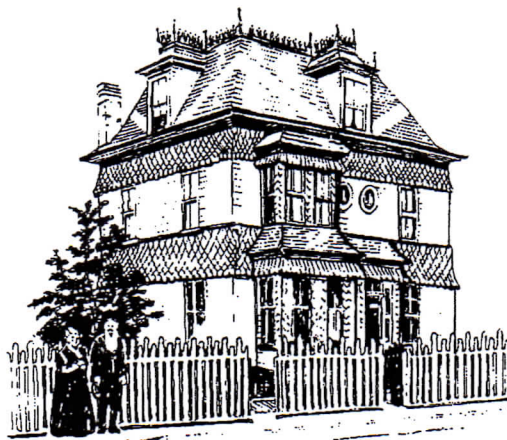


STANWOOD AREA ECHOES

Newsletter of the
Stanwood Area Historical Society
Stanwood, Washington

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Histories of Cedarhome

“Three miles east of Stanwood smiles a beautiful villa, which [in 1895] received the baptism Cedarhome. It seems as though Nature in her wisdom long, long ago took special pains to prepare a plot for this smoothly sloping panorama...

In early days a dense forest clothed this spot, and savage brutes ruled unrestrained. But some forty years ago [1870] the irascible agent — fire — resolved to show his power, which he did like an unchained demon. He sent his red flames from tree to tree, consuming big and small, save some stubborn giants, which remained black skeletons in melancholy loneliness. Bears, cougars, wild-cats and other inhabitants of the forest picked up their feet and with lightning speed sought the mountains for refuge.

Years elapsed, the sun sent down his gentle beams, the clouds unlocked their opulent stores, and the parched earth drank her fill, and gave birth to shoots that blossomed into a carpet of green. ¹”

**They heard the call:
“come up to the burns,
come up to the burns!”**

A History of Cedarhome
by Grace Ryan Cornwell

To the east of the Stillaguamish “flats” which surround the town of Stanwood, foothills terrace toward the Cascade Mountains, with their commanding peaks of the Sisters and Mount Pilchuck.

By the early 1900’s when the trees on the lowland and along the Stillaguamish River had been cut, logging camps set up on the eastern hillsides for harvesting the fine stands of cedar and fir there. Later the loggers were to be followed by a rash of small shingle mills to cut the cedar stumpage into shingles. During this era two large forest fires razed the area and the sites became known as the first Burn and the Second Burn — the latter lining a few miles east of the first.

There was now only the stubbled, blackened land quite a distance from town, with rocky soil which was far from fertile. Since logging companies were usually only interested in timber, much of the acreage reverted to the county for unpaid taxes and the rest could be purchased cheaply, as logging had moved



The 1911 photograph by J. T. Wagness above illustrates many stories: the land clearing by donkey engine, the families that came to this area to settle into new lives, and the “burn”.

Inside: Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center Progress Report →→→

[cont'd from front page]

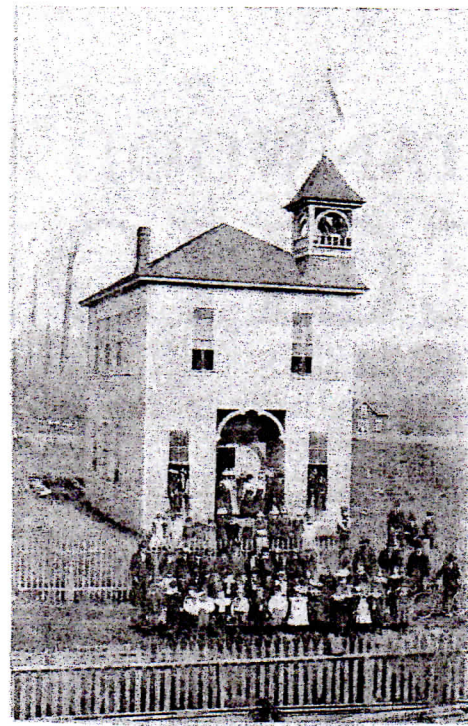
farther north or to Camano Island.

Now it was the developers turn – even then, a title of dubious worth - though local residents neither admired nor wanted “that poor land on the Burns.” So the “dressed-up city slicker” developers came to greet the newcomers who had read the glowing “land for sale” ads in the Midwest and Eastern papers: “Lots of fine acreage for farming, timber near for buildings and fish and clams to be gathered at the not-too-distant beaches. A temperate climate.”

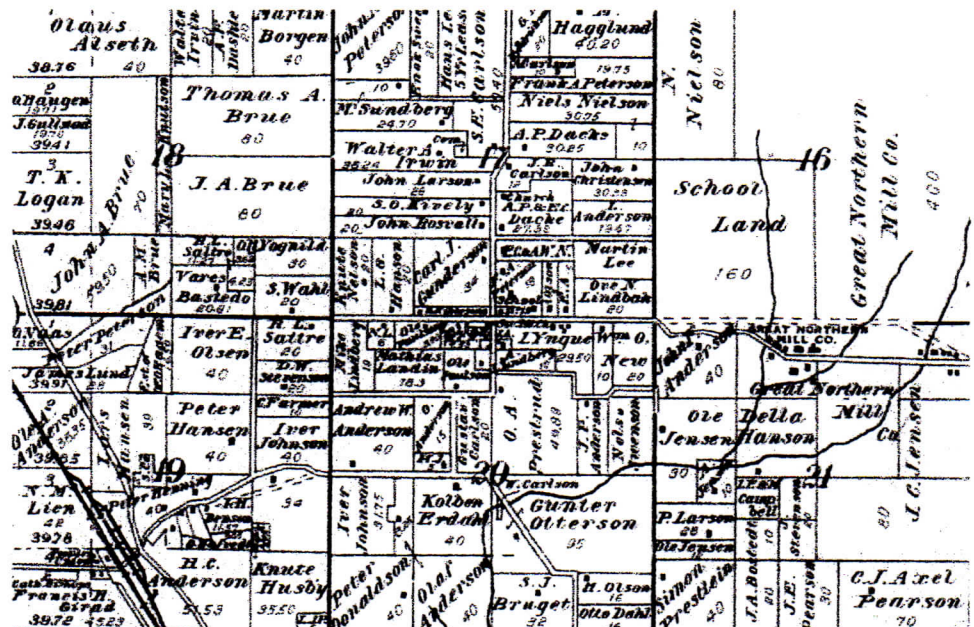
The Stanwood “men-folk” had many a hearty laugh at the “rubes” who came West from the Dakotas or Minnesota to buy this rough land up on the “Burns.” But their best joke was what they considered the exaggeration in the land ads, to which the town scoffers added, “Even the little fugels (Norwegian for birds) sit up in the trees and call, ‘Come up to the Burns!’” All this was recited with a strong Scandinavian accent. They enjoyed repeating this story and then would break into gales of laughter to think that anyone would be so foolish as to buy land “up on the Burns.” Today’s 271st Street N. W. carried the name “Burn Way.”

The land did sell and the new settlers came. They were pleased with the greenery, the climate and the many wild blackberries that could be had for the picking. There was a predominance of Scandinavians among them who had recently left a country across the ocean where there was little land to buy or it was worn out or could be inherited only by the oldest son. It could also be conceded that the plains of North and South Dakota weren’t the most comfortable places to live. The “Burns” looked rich to them, they were used to hard work and logging camps were near enough employment for the man of the family until he could get his acreage cleared and a farm started. This was a good country!

In the span of about twenty years, due to the changes brought about by machinery and improved transportation, the Burns, with their small settlements of Cedarhome, Victoria, Freeborn, Village and Bryant, were pretty comfortable places to live. The residents had built better homes, had organized churches and social groups and continued to enjoy the temperate climate – even the rain. New growth of alder, second growth fir, salal and other wild flora had covered the countryside previously scarred by those early forest fires. Now a century later, where is the “plush” place to live in the Stanwood area, with room for bridle trails, beautiful



“Most of these ‘newcomers,’ as they were dubbed, became successful over the years. Their children got a good education in the local schools and some even went on to college.” Cedarhome School, circa 1900
Photographer, O. S. Van Olinda; [85.10.18.07]



1910 Plat showing East Stanwood and Cedarhome area
Note Great Northern Mill Co. between tributaries of Church Creek.
Section 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 of Township Plat; 32N R4 E.W.M,
Plat Book of Snohomish County, Anderson Map Company, 1910, p.75

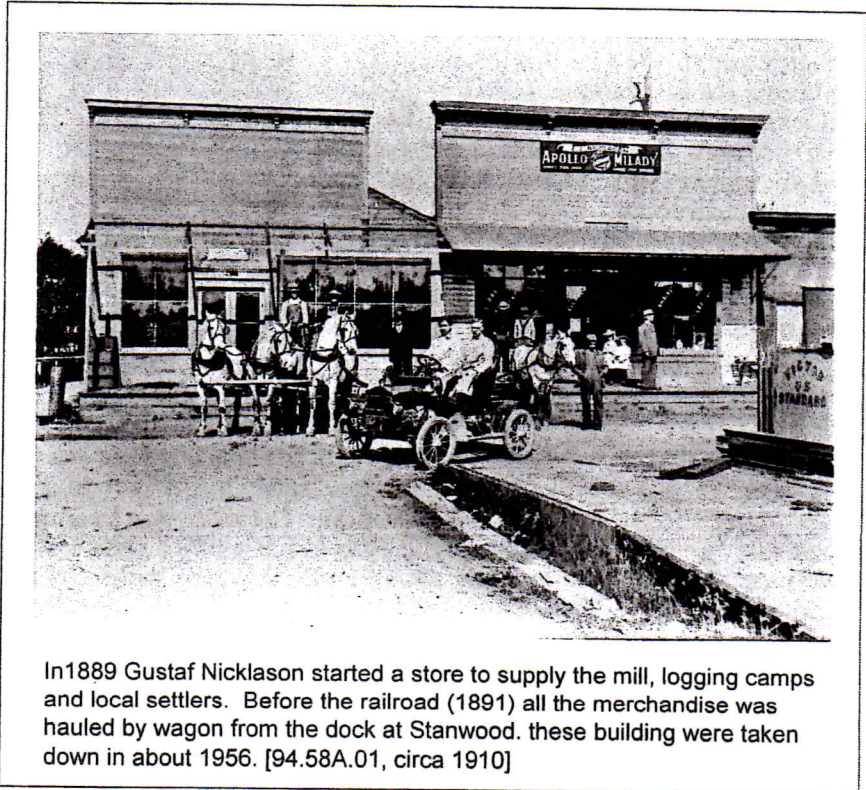
yards and a breathtaking view overlooking the flats below as well as the river and Puget Sound, with even a glimpse of the stately Olympic Mountains?

“The Burns!”
 So maybe the little fogle up in the tree wasn't so wrong when he sang, “Come up to the Burns, Come up to the Burns! **** The End

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**Cedarhome - “Principal Suburb of East Stanwood, Washington”**

Cedarhome, the community surrounding the crossroads of what is now 284<sup>th</sup> & 68<sup>th</sup> acquired the name Cedarhome for the many cedars in the area. 271<sup>st</sup> Ave N. W. was known as the Stanwood – Burns County Road during the time that western Stanwood city limits ended near Hamilton Lumber.

Cedarhome had another colorful nickname, “snoose hill,” acquired apparently because “everyone” chewed snuff. This perhaps was a popular habit of loggers, given the need to avoid smoking in the logging camps and mills.



In 1889 Gustaf Nicklason started a store to supply the mill, logging camps and local settlers. Before the railroad (1891) all the merchandise was hauled by wagon from the dock at Stanwood. these building were taken down in about 1956. [94.58A.01, circa 1910]

June 24<sup>th</sup> 1905.

|     |                      |       |
|-----|----------------------|-------|
| 101 | P. Miller            |       |
|     | Zablon Man           | 130   |
| 101 | Cedarhome Stand Co.  |       |
|     | 1 East Virginia      | 40    |
| 101 | John Christman       |       |
|     | 4 Bottles Butter     | 50    |
| 101 | G.O. Norman          |       |
|     | 1/2 Orange           | 50    |
|     | Lemon                | 15    |
|     | Kandy                | 10    |
|     | Chuffed Beef         | 25    |
| 101 | Scandinavian Hall    |       |
|     | 1 East Virginia      | 40    |
| 101 | Cedarhome Lumber Co. |       |
|     | 1/2 Beef             | 11 85 |
|     | Lard 1/2             | 5 -   |
|     | 1/2 Butter           | 3 75  |
|     | 1/2 Bacon            | 2 10  |
|     | 1/2 Oil              | 3 75  |
|     | 1/2 Molasses         | 50    |
|     | 1/2 Wheat            | 1 30  |
|     | 1/2 Onions           | 2 50  |
|     | Butter               | 2 50  |
|     |                      | 30 65 |

Entries in Cedarhome Mercantile ledger, Jun 24<sup>th</sup>, 1905. Note sales to the Scandinavian Hall [?] and the Cedarhome lumber & hardware companies.

Though never incorporated, it could be said that Cedarhome formally began its independent identity in 1885 when the Packwood School (District #19) was established. The two-story schoolhouse was built in 1893 before East Stanwood had its own school district.

In 1890, the Cedarhome Baptist and Swedish Methodist Churches were established followed later by the Cedarhome Seventh Day Adventist Church. The first meeting of those wanting to establish a Baptist Church was in 1890 and their Church was built in 1900 in “upper Cedarhome”; in 1921 the current church was built.

Cedarhome was an area settled by pioneers looking for good farm land many of whom also happened to be from Scandinavian countries. They logged, worked in the local shingle mills, planted gardens, raised cows, chickens, oats and hay.

Around 1898, two local Swedish settlers, Gustaf Nicklason and Carl Walters established a shingle mill. There were many shingle mills in the Stanwood area but this mill was successful enough to grow into a lumber mill in just a few years. One source indicated that the mill burned at least once. The number of employees ranged from 12 to 24. In 1908 they sold it and the mill continued until 1921<sup>2</sup>. On a 1910 plat map, the mill is named the

Great Northern Mill Co. and ads for lumber for this mill began to appear in the paper at this time.

To haul logs to the mill there was a three-mile logging railroad with a geared engine. The logging railroad ran north between the creeks. When it completed logging one area, it moved east and logged school lands in the same direction. Manny Wickstrom was the operator of the engine and in 1918 he was injured running the locomotive. Lillian Wickstrom Klett remembers playing on the flume that was constructed east of the mill in Church Creek to sluice logs to the pond. This mill pond was created by damming Church Creek. Some local folks remember it as a swimming hole later. Nothing is left of the mill and it is now private rural residential property. The mill superintendent's house and two of the mill houses still stand, and are also private residences.



Logging railroad for Cedarhome Lumber Co., known later as Great Northern Mill Co. and locally referred to as operated by 'Bell & Hess,' c. 1909 [88.07.352.10]

Gustaf Nicklason's Cedarhome Mercantile Store was typical of old mercantiles. It carried groceries, dry goods, shoes, hardware, feed and flour. The store was later operated by August Nicklason and W. G. Hanson. In 1948 when Henry and Harold Klett bought the store there was the main building, an office to the side with a walk-in vault, a section off the main building for shoes, a lean-to which was used for feed and a warehouse. There was a gasoline pump on the corner of the building. He bought the store from Stubb and Hegeberg. In 1949 the earthquake caused too much damage to the already aging building and they built the existing concrete block store in back, then tore down the old store leaving the front space as a parking lot. Henry and Harold Klett sold the store in 1967.

In the 1926 History of Snohomish County, William Whitfield referred to Cedarhome as a suburb of East Stanwood<sup>3</sup>. Many charming old houses remain in this area along side the beautiful new school and developments. Annexation to the City of Stanwood is under consideration by some and is yet controversial.

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1. Thomas B. Stine's Scandinavians in the Pacific, Puget Sound, 1909, p. 168.
2. Kramer Adams, Logging Railroads of the West, Superior Publishing Company, 1961.
3. William Whitfield, History of Snohomish County. Pioneer Historical Publishing Co. Chicago 1926 vol. I, p. 512. At this time, East Stanwood was a separately incorporated town from Stanwood. The towns merged in 1960.

See also: Alice Essex's The Stanwood Story, v 1, p. 7,41.; the 1906 An Illustrated History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties (reprint and index now available Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society); Doug Larson's "Cedarhome Chronicles: True Stories of the Life During the Early Years in North Snohomish County" - a series printed in the Independent Voice in 1999.

Thanks to Floyd Norgaard, Stanley & Ruby Sundberg, Harold Klett, Lillian Klett, Geraldine Magelssen, Harold Lund, Marion Hendershot, for their interviews and to the Walters Family for their family history writings.

| June 30                  |                    |        |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| ✓ Paid Peter Pederson    | For 2 1/4 Cds @ 90 | 25 43  |
| ✓ Paid Levi Lensen       | For milk 360 qts   | 9 13   |
| ✓ Paid Time Cks as foll. |                    |        |
| G. Edeen                 | No 23              | 56 84  |
| J. P. Carlson            | 40                 | 23 51  |
| O. Sundstrom             | 39                 | 33 42  |
| Louis Sandstrom          | 36                 | 57 56  |
| Walter Jensen            | 46                 | 1 07   |
| J. Lovgren               | 35                 | 58 41  |
| W. Hanson                | 41                 | 56 42  |
| F. W. Lyngson            | 33                 | 38 60  |
| C. W. Olson              | 26                 | 12 50  |
| O. A. Clark              | 47                 | 48 54  |
| J. Morrison              | 48                 | 31 02  |
| Louis Sandstrom          | 39                 | 36 32  |
| O. F. Nelson             | 32                 | 38 74  |
| Chas Edeen               | 34                 | 47 77  |
| G. Edeen                 |                    |        |
| Carl Anderson            | 43                 | 23 99  |
| Dacke                    | 10                 | 41 14  |
|                          |                    | 210 52 |

Photocopy of first page of record book showing names on 1898 payroll of the Cedarhome Lumber Company.