

Who Were Elizabeth Constable and John Quincy Adams Young

Elizabeth Constable Young (before 1850-1934)?

- Elizabeth was born in Missouri to Martha and James Barton Constable prior to 1850, when the census shows her living there with several younger siblings. Her parents died on the Oregon Trail in June 1852, apparently of cholera. Their five orphans continued to Oregon with her father's nephew, who staked a claim north of the Young Family, where Elizabeth grew up.
- Elizabeth married JQA on the Tualatin Plains on Christmas Day, 1856.
- Around 1863, Elizabeth, JQA, and their children moved to Cedar Mill from JQA's half of the Donation Land Claim northeast of Hillsboro that he had inherited from his father, Elam Young.
- Census records for 1870 show Elizabeth, "housekeeper" and JQA, "lumberman," and five children—James, William, Jasper, Abraham Lincoln, and Lowell—residing in the Young House. Subsequently, Frank was born in 1871, Martha Elizabeth in 1878, and Mable in 1882. Twin boys died at birth in 1866, and Henry, Mable's twin, died at six months.
- Elizabeth was a midwife and healer who helped birth 50 babies, and she kept house, raised a family, and helped with the post office, general store, and farm.
- She died in 1934 and is buried in Union Cemetery.

John Quincy Adams Young (1828-1905)?

- Young was among the first wave of white pioneers to re-settle the Willamette Valley after the Native American population was devastated by Euro-American diseases in the 18th and early 19th centuries.
- He was born in Ohio and immigrated with his parents (Elam and Irene Young) and two brothers. One brother was killed in the [Whitman Murders](#) in Walla Walla in 1847 and the rest of the family was ransomed from the Cayuse Indians by the Hudson's Bay Company to help avert a war. The incident became a tipping point in westward expansion of the U.S., leading to the creation of the Oregon Territory in 1849 and the State of Oregon in 1859.
- The Youngs arrived in Oregon City with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They immediately found work and soon moved to the Tualatin Plains north of

Hillsboro where they took a Donation Land Claim (DLC) near the present-day Elam Young Parkway.

- Young married a neighbor, Elizabeth Constable (born before 1850-1934), who had been orphaned on the Oregon Trail in 1852 and had grown up on her great-uncle's DLC near the Young property. Elizabeth and JQA Young raised eight children and lost three in infancy.
- JQA, Elizabeth, and five children moved into the house in 1869 when Young bought a sawmill at the Falls of Cedar Mill Creek with a business partner, William Everson. Young sold his interest in the mill in 1871.
- In 1874 Young became postmaster of Cedar Mill (which he named), bought 280 acres north of Cornell Rd., and built a new house (now lost) on that land.
- Young prospered as a farmer and businessman, becoming an active member of Wesley Chapel, Oregon Historical Society, and Oregon Pioneer Association. A founder of the Leedy Grange, he also served as Justice of the Peace and was Washington Co. Commissioner 1898-1902. He is buried in Union Cemetery.

Compiled by Michael W. Panhorst, 4 January 2022, from sources including the National Register of Historic Places nomination and "The Life of John Quincy Adams Young," by Eberhard Jaeckh, which was "compiled from various sources, including 'Life Sketches by John Q. A. Young, 1889,' extracted from the biography of John Quincy Adams Young, which was transcribed by his daughter Mable Young McIlwain."