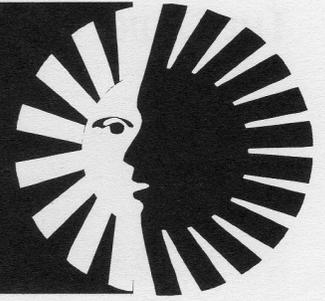


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**THE LADIES OF SALEM'S BUSH FAMILY**

by Virginia Green

Eugenia, a name that echoes through the generations of the Bush family, brought both promise and tragedy. The first Eugenia was the wife of Asahel Bush II, the founder of this Salem family. The fourth of her children, an infant when her mother died at the age of 30, was also named Eugenia. A gifted artist, she would be for many years estranged from her family. A granddaughter, Eugenia Thayer, was an intellectual who might have brought significant honor to the family but for her death at the age of 21, a victim of an influenza epidemic. Only a few incidents of their lives are now remembered. As these names fade into silence, others are still heard in Bush House and in their other Salem homes. They are Estelle, Sally, Lulu, Margaret, Patricia, Faye and Jody.



Eugenia Zieber Bush

thirtieth year, leaving four children under the age of seven: Estelle, A.N., Sally and the infant Eugenia.

How does a widower, not forty years old himself, care for four children under the age of seven and, at the same time, manage his public career? The Zieber grandparents played a large part in the earliest years of the children. Their father's support in the establishment of Sacred Heart Academy probably resulted in their attending that school for their earliest education.³ At the appropriate ages, they were sent back east to attend preparatory schools and college, but we can imagine many responsibilities for the younger children fell to the eldest, Estelle. Indeed, her whole life was one in which she was called on to care for others.

Eugenia Zieber Bush, the mother, was described as a "lady of tactful manner and gracious personality, endearing all who came in contact with her."¹ She was born in Princess County, Maryland, and attended the Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. In 1851, her family came across the plains to Oregon, locating first in Oregon City. Two years later, she was teaching music to 14 scholars in Linn City. Her father was a printer in Mr. Bush's newspaper and so the Zieber family moved with the paper to Corvallis when the state capitol removed to that city. She married Mr. Bush in her parents' home in 1854. When the capitol was relocated to Salem, both families moved again. The Zieber home was in the present Keizer area; the Bush family lived first at Cottage and Center, and later moved to a house at Church and Mission Streets.² Tragically, Eugenia died there in 1863 in her

Twenty-one year old Estelle was living at her grandmother Zieber's home in 1877 when she wrote to Sally at school saying that their brother, A.N.⁴, was presently living with his father in a hotel while the new house was being built "in this outlandish country" and that he would "live here forever". Estelle noted in another letter that she and her father were not "suited to living together". Her father accused her of not having opinions, but she states, "I used to have them" but having lived alone with him for so long she knew the utter uselessness of asserting her opinions if they were in disagreement with his.⁵

When Bush House was completed in 1878, it was a marvel of its time featuring gas lighting, indoor plumbing with hot and cold running water, ten marble fireplaces

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Estelle Bush

and central heat. While Mr. Bush and Estelle were perusing household catalogs in Salem, the three younger children were in Massachusetts attending school. Eighteen-year old Sally was dispatched to Springfield, Mass., to select furniture for the house before returning to Salem.

In this year, the fifty-four year old Bush had been a widower for sixteen years. As Estelle and Sally graduated from Wellesley and Smith colleges, they made their homes here. In 1882, A.N. graduated from Amherst and returned home to Salem to begin a banking career with the lowly job of janitor in his father's Ladd and Bush Bank. During some of these years, Eugenia was also at home from Wellesley. The family was together for the last time in their Salem home.

Mr. Bush was probably not aware that on the front porch of his home, Estelle was often engaged in private after-dinner conversations with the young man who would become her husband, Claudius Thayer. Although jealous of his daughter's affections for Claudius, Mr. Bush did not believe he posed a threat, as he was termed "delicate" and was described as a "cripple." Actually, Claudius was a lively person, although an intellectual, he had been involved in an active outdoor life, enjoyed horse racing and had become a "cripple" after injuring his knee in an accidental fall. Known to have a ready wit, he sometimes offended Victorian ladies. When the friendship ripened into romance, Mr. Bush was not the only person objecting; friends cautioned Estelle about marrying Claudius.⁶ They eloped to his parents' home in Portland (his father was an ex-governor) and were married there in 1884. Shortly after, the couple began married life in Tillamook where he built a store and school on his property. An enterprising businessman, he also sold lots for homes near the school. Their own first home was a simple log cabin. However, Claudius did not intend that Estelle would be reduced in

dignity. When he found her scrubbing the floor, he hired an Indian woman to do the housekeeping.

In 1886, two years after Estelle's marriage, A.N., now promoted to staff responsibility in his father's bank, married Lulu May Hughes of Salem.⁷ Their first home was on Cottage Street, between Trade and Mill. Their only child, Asahel IV, was born a year later. Before 1895, they moved to a grand Victorian mansion on the north-west corner of Capital and Court Streets that would be their home for the next fifty years.

Eugenia also left home at about this time although probably not as willingly. A child of artistic but erratic temperament, her behavior at Wellesley became unmanageable and she was sent home. In Salem, she was described as "an erratic genius, full of wit and sarcasm."⁸ Returned to school, the problem continued until a doctor proclaimed her mentally unbalanced. Her father's solution was to put Eugenia in a private institution in Massachusetts and declare that her name not to be mentioned again.



Sally Bush

In an undated letter written to "Millie", Eugenia writes, "If Papa could have let me come here freely, let me be alone, it would have been blessed – but I have had so much trouble here and made so much that I will never leave." She writes that Estelle and "dear little Gene" [referring to Eugenia Thayer] are coming for a visit. Eugenia is arranging for hotel accommodations, but

money is a problem. "...what [Papa] needs to do is give me the money pleasantly or without a string and let me alone." She seems to have some freedom to make choices, or believes she does. "I am going down to the teachers' bureau and see if I can get a place as a companion." Whether the visit occurred or not, we do not know.

Sally had become mistress of the house, the



Eugenia Bush

The Ladies of Salem's Bush Family

Asahel Bush, II 1824-1913
m.1854

Eugenia Zieber 1833-1863

Estelle
1856-1942
m. 1884
C. Thayer
1885-1923

Eugenia
1897-1918

A.N.
1858-1953
m.1886
Lulu Hughes
1861-1937

Asahel IV
1887-1934
m.1911
Margaret Boot
1890-1934

Sally
1860-1946

Eugenia
1862-1932

Asahel V
1912-1943
m.1934
Faye Cornish (DeSpain)
1906-1984

Margaret Ann (Jody)
1936-

Stuart
1916-
m.1944
Patricia Livesley
1921-2002

Asahel VI 1945- Sam 1949-

loving caretaker of the home; the hostess at her father's dinner parties; the avid gardener, cultivating the flowers of the newly constructed Conservatory near the house; managing the vegetable beds and fruit trees on the property; the animal lover, tending to the cows and other farmyard creatures, caring for the dogs and cats – particularly the cats – which people left at her doorstep, knowing that each would be given a home. Whether it had been her intention to live this life, without a husband and children of her own, we will never know. But in the nineteenth century, it was not uncommon for a daughter to remain at home, caring for her parents. There is no evidence she was anything but content as her interests extended beyond the domestic. With her brother A.N., she became a proficient photographer, she made the acquaintance of young Salem artists and writers, encouraging – sometimes financing— their early careers. She took an interest in the family businesses and enjoyed friendships beyond her own family.



Estelle Bush Thayer & Eugenia Thayer

Meanwhile in Tillamook, a new institution had been established, the C & E Thayer Bank, financed, at least in part, by Mr. Bush. Since Estelle had been "disowned" by her father when she married, a friend questioned why she accepted his help.⁹ Estelle replied, "My father owed me something." The bank was managed on a daily basis by Estelle herself, Claudius not being able to go to work each day. She carried

the cash deposits home each night, secure in a canvas bag, where she and Claudius went over the business of the day.

In 1897, fifteen years after their marriage, Estelle and Claudius adopted the infant daughter of their Indian housekeeper, naming her after Estelle's mother and sister: Eugenia. No effort or expense was spared for this beloved child. She was sent to an exclusive girls' school where her mother frequently visited her, sometimes without Eugenia knowing. Estelle confided that she would stand at the playground fence, hidden by bushes. "It would upset her," Estelle said, "to know that I was spying on her, but you know I love to watch her running and playing with her friends."

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In 1909, Estelle and Claudius closed their Tillamook bank and moved to California, seeking a better climate for his health and following their own dreams.¹⁰ Weekly letters to her sister Sally between 1910 and 1915 tell much of the story of their travels and adventures. Claudius had found travel by car to their new home was too difficult for him; he went by train. Her visit to San Francisco just a few years after the earthquake and fire left her sad to recall the former happy days in the city. In Los Angeles, she found the practice of leaving "calling cards" quite confusing. For some period of these years, the Thayer family lived at the Claremont Resort Hotel in the Berkeley-Oakland area.

In 1911, Asahel IV, the brilliant and much loved son of Lulu and A.N., was married to Margaret Lynn Boot. A son, Asahel V, was born a year later and another son, Stuart, in 1916. Margaret was a young woman of wit and charm who enjoyed a lively social life, but she often shocked the older generation of the Bush family. One incident, fondly remembered, is the occasion when the extended family and friends were vacationing in Pasadena, California, during the annual Rose Parade. The family, arranged comfortably along the route, was astonished to see the spectacle of Margaret perched atop a gaudily decorated elephant, costumed in a flowing black dress and enormous velvet hat festooned with bright red roses. We do not have her husband's reaction to this very public appearance, but he probably enjoyed it as much as she did. Young Asahel is remembered as brilliant and beloved by his family. His photographs reveal a charming and handsome young man, but perhaps not a serious one; one not ready to step into the business career his father offered.

In 1913, just two years after this marriage, Asahel Bush II, the founder of the Salem family, died. The estate, two million dollars at that time (roughly sixty millions today), after considerable allocations to his children while he was alive, was divided between A.N. and Sally. However, they readily divided their inheritance, giving Estelle her proper share. The family property was also divided; in 1917 A.N. and Lulu deed 57 of the 100 acres, the eastern lowlands



Lulu Hughes Bush

"below the bench", to the city as a park in memory of his father. The deed included restrictions as to use.

At this time, Sally made a bold decision: shortly after her father's death, she traveled east in a private railway car, returning with her sister Eugenia who lived in Bush House until her death twenty years later. Still eccentric in her behavior and somewhat of a recluse in the home, Eugenia proved to be a gifted artist. Some of her oil and china paintings are displayed in Bush House.

Anna Maria Powell, Miss Sally's god-daughter, had happy memories of carefree days at Bush House during her first six years (from 1916 to 1922) before her family moved to California. She described her Aunt Sally as having a child-like quality, "definitely more fun than any other adult". Anna Maria wrote, "I quite simply basked in her gentle aura. I admired especially the way she moved, her walk, light and graceful as a dance. Her prematurely white hair she brushed up and secured in a loose knot on top of her head. This soft nimbus framed a strong, pretty face, full of humor and interest in her companion."¹¹

During these years, the sisters shared their home with two young cousins. Eugenia and Charlotte Zieber, having lost their own parents, lived in Bush House for a dozen years. In 1929, Eugenia was married in a beautiful ceremony outside Bush House.

Although World War I did not directly influence the lives of the Bush and Thayer families, they were touched by events immediately afterward. An obituary in the *Salem Oregon Statesman* on October 19, 1918, stated, "Yesterday a telegram from California told of the death of Miss Eugenia Thayer...Miss Thayer contacted pneumonia through influenza while in Berkeley." At the

loss of her beloved daughter, Estelle plunged into a deep depression. On an evening when she seemed near suicide, her husband implored her to remember that he was still there and needed her. She did recover.

When the United States entered the World War in 1917, Young Asahel, A.N. and Lulu's son, had taken



Margaret Boot Bush

officer's training at the age of 31 and attempted to enlist with rank, but the war ended with him still in Washington, DC. However, an appointment with the Reparation Commission took him with his family to Barcelona and Paris for the years between 1919 and 1921.

While in Europe, Margaret wrote several series of postcards to her mother, "Muzzy", describing her joy in the tours, which had included London, Paris and Venice. One undated card contains a fragment about a woman she met and expressed Margaret's hopes for the future: "She is willing to go anywhere in the world with me and stay as long as I care to have her. Don't mention this to a soul, for it is only an idea that has just entered my mind – I should like to take her home with me – it seems a very good investment— Stuart of course will soon outgrow the need for a governess, but God-willing there will always be, at least for some years to come, a young one coming on, so that when she is through with one, she can begin all over again with another." Unfortunately, there would be no other children for Margaret, and in ten years, her own health would be seriously endangered.

In the meantime, as Sam Bush wrote, "They returned to Salem in 1921 more than a little out of synch with the locals he had grown up with." The years must have passed for them with the same ease as those of other prosperous couples in the Roaring Twenties. Often during the winter months, Margaret and Asahel accompanied the rest of the family, their servants and occasionally Dr. Downs, the family physician, to San Diego. The party traveled in leased railway carriages that became their vacation home.

Back in Salem, the parties continued and Asahel especially treasured his collection of fine wines, brought back from Europe, and liquor bought in Canada. However, this was too much for the elder Bushes who strictly abided by Prohibition laws, especially Lulu, who was an ardent member of the Women's Christian Temperance Movement. With the help of the family chauffeur (who wielded the axe), she organized a raid on the wine cellar in Asahel's home. The bottles were all shattered, a spectacular loss.

By the mid-twenties, Lulu Bush was the cultural and social leader in Salem. She was an art collector and helped organize the Salem Art Society, which evolved into the Salem Art Association. She brought the concept of "Living Pictures" to a local audience. In a theater, properly costumed volunteers would be placed motionless for several minutes, in front of painted scenes duplicating famous

paintings. She was a prominent member of First Methodist Church and, with the Womens Club, a founder of the Salem Public Library.¹² In 1925, Lulu was diagnosed with a heart disease and given three months to live. With the devoted care of her husband, she lived as an invalid for twelve more years.

Even after being confined to a wheelchair, Lulu continued to entertain lavishly at dinner parties. Dressed at the height of fashion, her dresses embroidered and decorated with lace, she appeared at the table in great ceremony, having descended from her room by way of the elevator installed for her use. Stuart Compton remembers when, as a child, he accompanied his parents to the A.N. Bush house for luncheon, the main meal of the day. The formality and elegance of the occasion and the beauty of the crystal and silver at the table made an impression he remembers to this day.

Estelle did survive the death of her beloved daughter, only to lose Claudius five years later. At just about the same time that Lulu was becoming an invalid, Estelle returned to Salem, building a home of white stucco near her brother on Capital Street. Soon after settling in her new home, Estelle took under her wing young Genevieve Junk, who lived with Estelle for the next twelve years, from about twelve years old through her attendance at Willamette. Much of what we know of Estelle's life during these years comes from Genevieve's recollections.¹³

As Lulu Bush had stimulated Salem's interest in art, Estelle, who became known as "Mother Thayer", now sponsored literature and theatre. She organized a student meeting place called Willamette Lodge on the university campus and founded a community theater group that met in her home in the evenings to produce plays for the public. Among the members was her nephew, Stuart Bush, who was once persuaded to take what he thought was a small part, that of a butler. He soon discovered that his was the leading role in "The Admirable Crichton". When Estelle's own literary group met, and we may imagine they were more mature friends, she usually began with a reading from a privately printed book containing 94 of Claudius' poems.

Estelle was retiring in appearance and in her social life. She wore beautiful but severe black dresses (she had 30, one for each day of the month) and preferred to entertain quietly. One hot summer, when Hal Patton complained

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that all the wives had abandoned their husbands for the cool weather at the beach, Estelle made sure the young gentlemen dined well at her house.

She preferred to be in the company of young people, perhaps as a reminder of her happy years with her own daughter. An example of this affection occurred in 1928. Anna Maria Powell, then about 12 years old, remembered an afternoon visit she and her mother had with 72-year-old Estelle, when she was visiting in Oakland. When she and her mother entered the lobby of the hotel, Estelle was waiting for them, "a slender lady wearing a long, full-shirted, black taffeta dress, her delicate face topped with snow-white hair. In her lap she held a large box of chocolates." But that was not to be the only gift for the young lady. "After a brief conversation, Aunt Estelle suggested we go shopping... a delightful prospect." Although looking for a department store, they were tempted into a drug store that sold cosmetics. Estelle chose a case fitted with articles for grooming: comb, brush, and manicure tools. "My mother thought it extravagant for her daughter, who had been brought up so simply, but our delight easily overcame her resistance."

"I was wrong and apologize." Removing a beautiful ring from her finger, she added, "And I want you to have this ring as a wedding present."

- Lulu Bush to her new granddaughter-in-law, Faye Cornish (DeSpain) Bush

As the 1920s ended, the Depression descended on our country and on Salem. The wealth of the Bush family isolated them from the economic distress, but between 1932 and 1935, the family suffered three personal losses. Sally's sister Eugenia died in 1932 and the family gathered in Bush House for her private funeral. Just the year before, Margaret had been diagnosed with having tuberculosis. Family history does not tell us how she passed the next three years of illness in various sanatoriums, the medical therapy of that time. Her obituary in the *Oregon Statesman* of July 6, 1934, states that she died in a Toledo, Oregon, hospital after an illness of three years. Her son Asahel was 22 and already established in his career as a journalist in Klamath Falls. The younger son, Stuart, was 18, living in Salem with his father.

In November of 1934, a few months after Margaret died, Asahel V married in Klamath Falls. His bride was Faye Cornish DeSpain, whom he had met when they were members of a local community theatre group. Faye was a young widow whose husband had died in an automobile

accident in 1932. When Asahel had first proposed, Faye was reluctant because she was six years older. There was also a difference in their family backgrounds. She described herself as a "Topsy" raised "on the other side of the tracks". Her father, who worked for the electric company, had owned a bar and was once a professional gambler. None of this bothered Asahel; he had become a great friend of Mr. Cornish, whom he considered another Will Rogers and he was very much in love with the beautiful and vivacious Faye. After the wedding, the young couple pooled their savings of \$200 and had a brief honeymoon in Reno. Then it was time for Faye to meet his family in Salem.

As his car drove into the porte-cochere of the Bush residence on Capital Street, Faye, who was not aware of the family wealth, was awed to see such an imposing residence. Upon entering, she felt she had stepped into a "movie set". After introductions and, we assume, some casual conversation, the host and guests entered the dining room for luncheon. The elaborate table was presided over by Lulu with three generations of Bush gentlemen in attendance: Faye's husband, his father¹⁴ and his grandfather.

Lulu had just recently learned of her grandson's marriage and was curious about the identity of this young lady, her family, and that of her late husband. Lulu asked questions and Faye replied until Lulu dismissed the DeSpain family's Pendleton background with the remark, "I never heard of them." Faye had had enough of the inquisition, and after a pause excused herself and left the dining room, proceeding up the stairs to the bedroom she was to share with her new husband. Although furious at such treatment, Faye was calmed by Tante Marthe, a beloved member of the household. Faye was contemplating her next step when the door opened and Lulu wheeled herself into the room. She and Faye stared at each other. Finally, Lulu spoke. "I was wrong and apologize." Removing a beautiful ring from her finger, she added, "And I want you to have this ring as a wedding present." Faye and her husband's grandmother thus established their relationship. Lulu was delighted by the birth of her great-granddaughter, Margaret Ann ("Jody") in June of 1936.

In November of the next year, Lulu died at her home. Sam Bush wrote about his great-grandfather's devotion in

caring for his wife: "His devotion was never as tested, or proven, as in the infirmity of his wife Lulu...he was there morning, noon and evening; took her to California once or twice a year, celebrated anniversaries and birthdays, sat through hospital stays, pushed the wheelchair and scattered the ashes. It was a marriage of 51 years and by every measure a good one." The funeral ceremony was conducted at the First Methodist Church and was attended by the leading citizens of Salem, her life-long friends.

In the midst of his personal sorrow, A.N. had to face another problem. The Depression had finally touched his family finances: they were now dipping into capital assets. When Henry Compton, his vice-president at the bank, shared his concerns, A.N. made the necessary adjustments in his expenditures. Estelle agreed to do the same. Only Sally, notorious in her charities, refused to acknowledge Mr. Compton's request. Finally, after several appeals to her, he was about to give up when Sally saw a tear in his eye. "Oh, Henry, you are serious!" she admitted and agreed to cut back as best she could. However, she did so reluctantly, remaining a soft touch to the "hobos" who knew they could get food at her door and in caring for the many personal distressed local people who came to her for aid during those desperate years.

Sally's compassion is also illustrated by an incident that occurred in the 1930s. Douglas McKay, who greatly loved horses, was finally able to afford one for himself, but had no place to keep it. He rented a space in Sally's barn, near his home. One day when she was present, he noticed a huge horsefly was irritating his animal. With a slap, he exterminated it. When he later asked to extend the lease for another year, Sally said no, it would not be available to him, giving no reason. He went home and reported to his wife that because Sally saw him kill the horsefly, he had lost that convenient stable for his horse¹⁵.

Faye and Asahel Bush moved from Klamath Falls to Salt Lake City and to San Francisco. As an experienced journalist, he was offered the position of managing editor at the newspaper here in Salem, but he graciously refused it. China or Europe was his goal, as Faye later told Jody. During these years, young Jody visited the Bush family for three weeks, every six weeks; she rode to Salem on the Pullman car of the railway, under the supervision of the dignified Porter. She divided her time between her grandfather's house on Capital Street and Sally's Bush House on Mission. These are still wonderful memories

for her: the joy in her great-grandfather's company and the delight of riding in his elevator; the tender pleasures enjoyed with her Aunt Sally, especially the afternoon teas for children on her front porch.

In 1942, eighty-two year old Estelle died at her home. According to the newspaper account, her body was to "lie in state" at her residence during the day before her private funeral there. Concluding services were to be held at Mt. Crest Abbey mausoleum. Her will left a scholarship endowment for young women at Willamette. This fund continues today under the administration of the AAUW.

In 1943, Jody's father left for the South Pacific when he was assigned duty as a Foreign Correspondent with the Associated Press. Faye and Jody returned to Salem to live in a large, square house on the corner of Union and Liberty provided by Asahel's grandfather, A.N. A year later, Wendell Webb, a close friend and managing editor of the *Statesman Journal* came to this house to tell Faye of the death of her husband, the victim of a Japanese air raid at Tacloban, Leyte, Philippines. Mr. Webb then took Jody out for a walk and told her. Sally and A.N. were loving supporters of Faye. They also cared deeply for Jody and competed for her attention; she spent a night in each household every other weekend.

In 1944 Bush House and the remaining 47 acres were offered to the city for \$175,000.¹⁶ The bond issue failed. After negotiations, the property was offered to the city for \$150,000. Henry Compton and a group of Salem women, under the leadership of Mrs. Frances Utter, were determined to obtain this historic property for the citizens. They conducted a vigorous house-to-house campaign to build up support for another bond issue for \$125,000. It passed on Jan 11, 1946. The former restrictions on land use were modified. Willamette University, seeking an athletic field, purchased 10 acres from the city for \$25,000. This supplied the balance of funds for the purchase price. The final papers were signed in April 16, 1946.

In the following November, Sally died in her home. Jody was the only member of the family present. The private funeral services were held in the parlor, decorated with flowers arranged by her friend, Edith Schryver.¹⁷ The obituary mentioned Sally's affiliation with the Unitarian Church, the Salem Garden Club and support for "many charities without ostentation." Sam Bush, a descendant of

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the family has written that Sally "by all reports was a very dear and beloved person whose heart must have been several times larger than her diminutive frame" and "her generousities being so numerous as to be legendary." He graciously concluded with this tribute, "I suspect her mother's image shines through this woman."¹⁸

In the summer of 1948, the Salem Art Association conducted a sale of "bric-a-brac and furniture." The newspaper article mentioned that the contents of the house had been purchased from the heirs. This sale must have been just before A.N. moved back into Bush House, the family residence that had been his home before his marriage. His own house on Capital Street, like many other beautiful old residences in his neighborhood, had been acquired by the state of Oregon for the expansion of the Capitol Mall and its new state buildings. Because of his servants' insistence, the elevator that had served his wife was transferred to Bush House. Here he lived out his last years in declining health. When his nurse Sarah Stewart was on vacation, he would only let Faye attend him, not for her nursing skills, but just needing her to stay near and comfort him. He died at the age of 95 on February 24, 1953.

Three years after Asahel's death, in 1947, Faye married Roderick (Rod) Livesley, a member of another prominent Salem family. Stuart Bush, who was at that time married to Rod's sister Patricia, often introduced Faye as "My [late] brother's wife and wife's brother's wife." The elder Mr. T.A. Livesley had been at one time the largest hop farmer in the world. After the death of his widow, the family home was sold. Now named Mahonia Hall, it is the governor's residence.

The sisters-in-law, Faye and Patsy, each established homes away from the place they were born. Faye came to Salem and stayed here; Patsy was born here, but moved away as an adult. Both are remembered here with great affection.

Patsy was born in Salem in 1921. Her childhood here was typical for those years before World War II. She attended public schools and joined other youngsters picking hops on her family's Lakebrook Farm, north of Salem. She and Stuart Bush

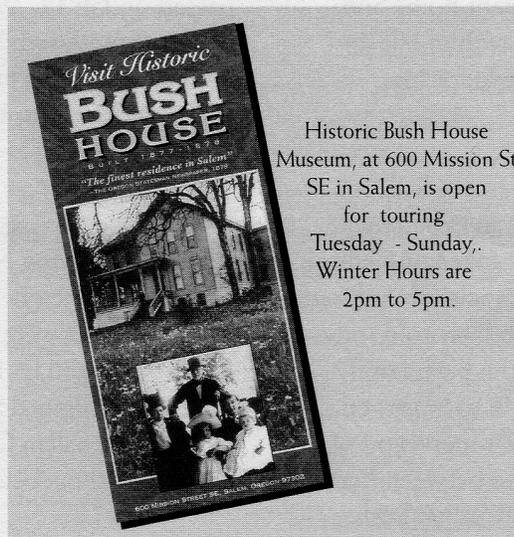
married on July 2, 1944, in Plattsburg, New York, and their first son Asahel Bush VI was born in Geneva, New York in August of the next year. By 1949, when their second son, Samuel, was born, they were living in Salem. Stuart and Patty divorced in Portland in 1957. Her second husband was Frank Morgan. They lived for a time in Cannon Beach. She survived him, dying in November of 2002.

Faye and Rod made their first home at Lakebrook, then moved to another home near Macleay. A small house on the property was home to her widowed mother who died in the early 1960s. This loss was followed by the death of Rod in 1964. Faye continued living in Salem another twenty years until her own death in 1984.

While living in Salem, Jody attended Garfield, Parrish and North Salem High School. In 1952, she boarded at Castilleja, a school for girls in Palo Alto, in order to try to qualify for Stanford. She was successful, graduating in 1958. While working in Seattle, she married Larry Pitsenberger and earned a MLS degree. After a distinguished career in public service, she retired as Deputy Director of the Berkley Public Library in 2000. Jody returned to Salem in that year when her daughter Claire married Martin Jacobs in a beautiful ceremony in Bush House. The family hopes this may begin a tradition.

There are more Bush ladies to consider as we look to the future: Jody's son Thomas and his wife Marguerite have made her the grandmother of eight: Aaron, Laurence, Christopher Lee and Michael Andrew (twins), Andrew Bush, Jacob Charles, Daniella Maria and Rachel Michelle. Stuart and Patricia Bush are the parents of Asahel Bush, VI and Sam Bush. Asahel VI and his wife Stephanie are the parents of Asahel VII and Miranda Elise Bush of Avalon, New South Wales, Australia. Sam and his wife Jennifer are the parents of a daughter, Emily, and a son, Drew, of Portland, Oregon.

Salem has recorded the public accomplishments of Asahel Bush II and his namesakes, but few people have had the opportunity to know the private lives of the family. As we share these memories of these ladies of the Bush family, we honor them for their devotion to their families



and for their contributions to Salem. 

About the Author: The author, a retired American Studies teacher, moved to Salem four years ago and began her local research with a series of profiles for the Salem Public Library's history website (<http://www.salembistory.net/people/people.htm>). She enjoys learning about her new hometown and sharing local memories with readers of the Historic Marion. Both the author and the Historic Marion wish to thank Patricia Narcum-Perez, coordinator at Bush House, for suggesting this article and providing historical documents and to Jody Bush for recalling her childhood memories in Salem.

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- ¹ Obituary of Asahel Bush, II, Oregon Statesman, December, 1913.
- ² Vignettes of the Bush Family, p. 11, Ellen Foster, Bush House Auxiliary, 1983
- ³ For the rest of her life, Estelle treasured her associations with the Roman Catholic traditions and members of the clergy.
- ⁴ Asahel Nesmith is considered as Asahel III in the family lineage.
- ⁵ Vignettes of the Bush Family, p. 15, Ellen Foster, Bush House Auxiliary, 1983
- ⁶ Genevieve J. Oppen, MCHS video interview, 1995.
- ⁷ She was the daughter of John and Emma Pringle Hughes. Mr. Hughes was a prominent businessman in Salem with a successful mercantile establishment. His prosperity and social eminence in Salem was equal of Mr. Bush. Lulu's grandmother had emigrated to Oregon in 1846 with her parents and grandmother, Tabitha Moffat Brown.

⁸ An entry in the diary of Judge Matthew P. Deady.

⁹ Oppen video, cited above.

¹⁰ The bank failed as a commercial venture, but Mr. Bush paid off its depositors. He was unwilling to allow a Bush family enterprise to default on its responsibilities although he had no legal obligation to do so.

¹¹ See www.earthisland.com/AMPowell/Sally. A profile of Sally Bush is found at www.salembistory.org under the heading People.

¹² In a 1931 "Bits for Breakfast" article by R. J. Hendricks in the Oregon Statesman, Lulu Bush is given credit for convincing the Carnegie Foundation to increase the amount of a prospective \$14,000 grant for the Salem Public Library building fund. In 1911, while in New York with her husband, she called on the Secretary of the organization and represented to him that Salem was not only the state capital, but also "an educational center and ...place surrounded by a country with such resources as would demand constant growth." The grant was increased to \$27,500.

¹³ Genevieve had lost both parents by the time she was 11 and was living, uneasily, with a grandmother. Estelle was eager to have the child with her and provided a home and an education at Willamette University. Genevieve left Estelle's home to marry Chester Oppen.

¹⁴ This may have been Faye's only meeting with her father-in-law: two months later, on January 4, 1935, he died of heart failure.

¹⁵ Douglas McKay became mayor of Salem, governor of Oregon and U.S. Secretary of the Interior in the Eisenhower administration.

¹⁶ The house was to remain in the possession of the family until after the death of both Sally and A.N.

¹⁷ Edith Schryver and Elizabeth Lord were local landscape artists who lived just across Mission Street. They had a long friendship with Sally, encouraging experimentation and cultivation of her plants and flowers collected locally and from distant parts of the world. The trees on the hillside along Mission and the rose garden are among their contributions.

¹⁸ Some Bush Family Lineage, Sam Bush, 1997.