

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

February 2009

Volume Twenty-Four
Number Two

14 February Program

14 February 2009 - A BCGS presentation on Genealogy available from the **History Detectives**, with handouts. Also, *how do you handle* discussions; Adoptions, step and foster children, recording and sharing information of questionable reliability, and more time allowing? Bring your solutions and questions; we're going to try doing this as a regular event at meetings.

150 YEARS OF OREGON STATEHOOD FEBRUARY 14, 2009

Mary Jane Holmes Shipley Drake

BY TERI GREENE

Mary Jane Holmes was born in Missouri to Robin and Polly Holmes, slaves belonging to Missouri farmer Col. Nathaniel Ford. In 1844, Col. Nathaniel Ford crossed the Oregon Trail, bringing the Holmes family with him who were his slaves, and established a farm (in what is now the town of Rickreall in Polk Co.) in the Oregon Territory. The Holmes family had been promised their freedom after reaching the Oregon Territory. After arrival in Oregon, Ford delayed in freeing the Holmes family and reneged on his promise to release Mary Jane and her siblings who he planned to sell when they became adults. Upon settling in Oregon, Ford built a small cabin for the Holmes family on his property and allowed them to grow produce to sell and have limited travel,

Eventually, in 1849, Ford gave Polly and Robin Holmes and a baby son their freedom and they moved to Salem where Robin started a nursery. After the death of a daughter who died while visiting her parents in Salem and, along with Mary Jane and three other siblings that Ford had refused to give freedom to, Robin Holmes a filed suit against Ford in 1852 in the Polk Co. District Court to gain custody and freedom of his remaining children.

When in the summer of 1853 the now famous Holmes vs. Ford case was placed on the court docket of the recently arrived Chief Justice of the Territorial Government Supreme Court, Mr. George H. Williams, declared slavery to be illegal in Oregon Territory thus giving the Holmes children their freedom. Prior to the court case, Ford had given Mary Jane to a daughter and after gaining her freedom, Mary Jane stayed on with the Ford family in order to help provide income for her parents.

In 1857, Mary Jane spoke of her desire to marry another ex-slave, an older gentleman named Reuben Shipley.

Reuben Shipley was born in Kentucky around 1800, and took the last name of his master, Robert Shipley, a common practice at that time, Reuben was the plantation overseer in Missouri for Robert Shipley, as well as being highly skilled. In 1853, Robert Shipley promised Reuben his freedom if he would help bring Robert's family to Oregon. Reuben agreed and left his wife and sons behind, promising to send for them after arrival in Oregon. Before he could do so, Reuben's wife died and

Continued next page

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his son's owner refused to sell them. Upon arrival in the Mary's River Settlement in 1853 Reuben was given his freedom. Reuben found employment with Eldridge Hartless, a Donation Land Claim owner whose property was south of and adjacent to what is now Philomath. In 1857, for the sum of \$700, Reuben Shipley purchased 80 acres of farmland located on the southeast section of Neabeack Hill.

Reuben and Mary Jane Holmes were married in 1857 and moved to Reuben's 80 acre farm near what is now Philomath. Reuben had built a cabin there near a locust tree and is where their seven children were born and raised. Reuben and Mary Jane were well liked and they participated in the religious and social life of the community. Mary Jane was noted for her good cooking. During an epidemic Mary Jane helped nurse members of the community and was also reported to be a midwife.

It had been suggested to Reuben that the east side of Neabeack Hill would make a good location for a cemetery. In 1864, three acres of his property was deeded over to the trustees and named Mt. Union Cemetery, with clause that the cemetery always be open for black people to be buried there. In 1873, Reuben Shipley and one of their daughters died of smallpox and are buried in that cemetery.

In 1875, after Reuben's death, Mary Jane married R. G. Drake (or A. (Alfred) Drake) and lived with him on her farm in Corvallis until his death. Mr. Drake had four children from his first marriage when he married Mary Jane. He is buried in Mt. Union Cemetery in a lot adjacent to Reuben and Mary Jane's. After Mr. Drake's death, Mary Jane sold the homestead in 1880. Mary Jane and her family moved to Salem in 1878 before moving to Newport where they lived for 14 years. Mary Jane helped families in Corvallis during the typhoid epidemic in the 1880's. After leaving Newport she moved to Portland to live with her son Edward until her death. Mary Jane lived to be 100 years old and is buried next to Reuben and four of her children in Mt. Union Cemetery.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Membership Renewals

Dasch, May	Bielman, Julie & Ken
Young, H. Robert	Bier, Roberta
Haney, Peggy & Dennis	Ethington, Robert
Duyck, Richard	West, Linda
Snelling, Mary Dean	Greig, Earle & Vangie
Hoornebeck, Billee	DeBoie, John & Nance
Barclay, Janice	Carpenter, Lynee
Thompson, Martin	Merrill, Walter
Glass, Roberta & Ray	Barton, Jan
Birdsall, Betty	Handsaker, Janice
Davidson, George	Yoke, Mary

New

Noonan, Michelle
Danley, Kay
Sutherland, Ross (our speaker/leader)

Immigrant Ships

If your family arrived in New York before Ellis Island opened, they may have entered through Castle Garden, beginning in 1830. Ellis Island arrivals came through the Port of New York from 1892 to 1924. More than 8,000 passenger manifests, many from less famous parts are being transcribed also.

www.castlegarden.com, www.ellisland.org, www.immigrantships.net

Reprinted from the WVGS Newsletter, , January, 2009

The Village Genealogy Bookshoppe



Danell Aukerman

228 NE Azalea Dr
Adair Village, OR 97330

danell@genealogybookshoppe.com

Books published by Benton County Genealogical Society are always available for purchase at the society library after each meeting, and every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 PM. They are also available at the Benton County Historical Museum, during their normal hours.

News From the Library

Sandra Potter, Librarian

Number	Category	Author	Title
:			
2623	CAN-ONT	Ontario	Genealogy Society Guide to Ontario Land Registry Records.

Those of you with Canadian connections might be interested in the following news. Thanks to a so-far-anonymous donor, who left a variety of Ontario Newsletters, that can be added to our Canadian Newsletter collection.

Toronto Tree (23 issues); Halton-Peel Newsletter (12 issues); York Region Ancestors (14 issues); Talbot Times (13 issues); London Leaf (6 issues); Families (10 issues); Essex County Branch (10 issues); Scarborough Historical Society (2 issues).

In addition there are: "Generations" (Manitoba), 16 issues and Cumbria Family History Society, 13 issues. (Donor, Please let me know who you are!)

FOR SALE, for a donation:

2 copies of "Family Tree Book" (for children)

"Photomems" (labels for photos, captions)

National Archives Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives (1983)

Croom "Unpuzzling Your Past"

National Archives 1920 Federal Population Census (catalog of microfilms)

Everton Handybook for Genealogists (7th edition)

FREE-- some assorted newsletters from Wisconsin, Connecticut, Canada.

Magazine News

"American Spirit" March/April 2008

This issue has a fascinating article about the history and development of calendars: "*Days of Reckoning.*" Some of the unusual details of our present calendar go back to the Egyptians and Romans. Undoubtedly, most of us have run into Julian (Old Style) and Gregorian (New Style) dates in researching our family histories. But what about the people in the midst of the calendar change who "lost" 10 days when Pope Gregory decreed the change in the calendar? The author of this article states: "There was tremendous confusion over the impact of the lost days on wages, taxes, schedules, interest, and so on." There are many more interesting details in this article.

In "Mind Your Manners—Courtesy Books in Colonial America" examples from these books are given dealing with manners, personal appearance, diet and treating others with respect. As a boy George Washington carefully copied 110 rules from a translation of a French book written in 1595 to educate nobility. One of my favorites is: "In the presence of others, sing not to yourself with a humming noise; nor drum with your fingers or feet."

Do You Want to Play with a Preview Copy of RootsMagic 4?

Are you one of those users who wants to play with RootsMagic 4 before we actually release it? Well, now is your chance.

Later this month we will begin a "community preview" of RootsMagic 4. This preview will be open to those current RootsMagic users who wish to try out a pre-release copy of RootsMagic. Keep in mind that the preview version could (I mean "will") still have bugs in it, and shouldn't be used for your real data.

But if you want a chance to play around with version 4, sign up for the preview at:

<http://www.rootsmagic.com/preview>

Program Review

By David Kribs, Program Chairman

10 January 2009 - Ross Sutherland, Collection Storage Specialist at the Benton County Historical Museum, substituting for Mary Gallagher, gave us a tour of the Collections Care Facility and Museum. Ross proved to be quite an acceptable substitute. We toured the reception, classifying, and storage areas. It was heard *some of these things don't look so old I can remember using them*. There is some chance we may be getting older ourselves, I'm sure our children and grandkids haven't used them and will appreciate seeing these things even more than we do. A good many visited the art exhibit "150 years of Oregon art" after the collections tour.

Upcoming Programs

14 March 2009 - Researching the Town POOR PEOPLE with our own Billee Hoornbeek. Billee has collected data and information about the treatment (and documentation) of the town poor for the last 200 years. Billee has about ½ hour of presentation. We will need your items and experiences in researching for records of the poor to help fill out the program.

11 April 2009 -Tentative- English Research - Susan Hayes (Bill Gleaves assist)

9 May 2009- Tentative- Reenactment - Historical interpreter

13 June 2009- Genealogy Methods 2009—Potluck Picnic

- Summer Break -

12 September 2009 - Show 'N' Tell

10 October 2009 - Tentative—German Research

Query

We got a check for \$50 from Donna Young of Mesa, AZ requesting info on the death and burial of her great grandmother, Mary E. Brents Meed (Meeds, Mead, Meads) who was in Summit for the 1880 Census. Born ca. 1846, and apparently dead by 1885 when husband Dennis remarries in May of 1885. I can find mention of daughter, Gertrude in Corvallis Gazette (from our index) but haven't looked it up yet. No burials of the family in the Cemetery Book index. Anyone else have any ideas?

I looked through the Heritage Quest Census transcriptions and only found the Meads family in the 1880 in Summit, OR and 1900 with Husband Dennis Meeds and new wife in Iowa. I haven't looked at family search or Ancestry.com.

Benton County Historical Society Presents: 2009 Benton Lectures

From the Benton County Historical Society and Museum web pages

<http://www.bentoncountymuseum.org/>

1859: The Oregon Experience

Monday, February 23

Janice Marschner, author "Oregon 1859: A Snapshot in Time"

A Look at Oregon in the Year of Statehood

An overview of the 100+ communities in Oregon in 1859

Monday, March 2

Shannon Applegate, author "Skookum: An Oregon Pioneer's family history and lore"

1859 through Applegate Family Letters

Exploration of a pioneer's family through letters

Continued next page

OGS Winter & Spring Genealogy Class Schedule

- FEB 14** **LAND PLATTING**
Now that you know where your ancestor bought land learn how to plat it on a map. Instructor: Linda Forrest
- FEB 21** **GOOGLE FOR THE GENEALOGIST**
It's more than just a search engine. Tips for successful searches, accessing digital books & images, and creating your own customized search engine home page that will keep you up to date on the latest genealogy information. Instructor Dawn Carlile
- FEB 21** **WRITING YOUR FAMILY STORIES** *(tentatively scheduled)*
1-3 pm *Learn how to take your notes from your family research and interviews and turn them into interesting stories about your ancestors. Instructor Ferne Kellow & Grace Runyan*
- MAR 14** **QUAKER RESEARCH**
Everything you need to find Quaker records and how to trace your Quaker ancestors. Instructor: Roger Rasmussen

Classes are held Saturday mornings, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM, at the OGS Research Library. Cost is \$5.00 per class and is paid at the door. Plan to arrive early to register and pay. Classes will start promptly at 10:00 AM. The library is in the alley between Willamette and Oak Streets, behind the Downtown Athletic Club. Free parking is available in the Overpark parking garage above the library on Saturdays. From 10th Avenue turn North onto Oak and left into the parking garage.

Oregon Genealogical Society and Research Library

955 Oak Alley, Eugene, OR 97401

Phone: 541-345-0399

Email: ogsinfa@comcast.net

1859-2009

Oregon's Sesquicentennial Celebration

February 14, 2009

family day at the capitol 11 am to 4 pm state capitol SALEM, OR

Join Oregon 150 and partners at the State Capitol to kick off sesquicentennial celebrations! Governor Ted Kulongoski, Senate President Peter Courtney and Speaker of the House David Hunt will be making sesquicentennial comments in the Capitol Rotunda and helping everyone to a 6 tiered cake large enough to feed 3,000 people! Musical entertainment and performances on the Capitol Mall from Radio Disney, The Just for Fun Singers (80 person singing ensemble) and others. Oregon 150 partners are invited to participate by representing their city, county, tribe or organization. Blacksmithing and wagon wheel demonstrations, historic building tours, gift bags for the first 500 children, pictures with the Gold Pioneer, along with participation by the Siletz Tribe, candle making, and square dancing. Oregon geological and historical exhibits will be on display.

Benton County Historical Society Presents: 2009 Benton Lectures (Continued)

Monday, March 9

Mary Gallagher, Collections Manager, Benton County Museum

Benton County, Oregon in 1859

Benton County, Oregon's built environment at the time of statehood

All lectures will be held at the Benton County Historical Museum, 1101 Main Street Philomath, Oregon 97370 at 10 o'clock a.m. in the Moreland Auditorium. Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m.; questions and discussion will follow the lecture. Cost is free to Historical Society members and \$5.00 to non-members.

*** This is a partial list of lectures. The remainder will be in next months newsletter. ***

From the Calendar of Events - The Reed Opera House

"February 1 Thru March 15, 2009

The Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers and the Salem Multicultural Institute Presents:

'Stories From the Peculiar Paradise' Exhibit Celebrating Black History Month

'This exhibit highlights six stories of men who lived in the peculiar paradise called Oregon; a beautiful Eden-like place where the peculiar institution of slavery cast a shadow and yet the human spirit prevailed.' ~ The Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers.

The World Beat Gallery, 2nd Floor

Tue. - Fri. 10am-2pm, Sat. 12-4pm

Tours Are Available by appointment. Call 503-581-2004"

According to OregonLive.com the exhibit "explores the lives of George Fletcher, John Livingstone, Louis Southworth, Moses Harris, Richard Bogle and William Tebeau -- men who contributed in different ways to Oregon's rich cultural history." Louis Southworth is buried at Crystal Lake Cemetery here in Benton Co.

Reed Opera House

<http://www.reedoperahouse.com/>

189 Liberty Street N.E.

Salem, OR 97301

Submitted by Margaret Fox

An Aid to Researching Residents of the Southwestern United States by Delia Cothrun Bourne

Newspapers are a wonderful genealogical source, but researchers often limit their search for relevant publications to a specific town or county. Even broadening the search to surrounding counties may not be enough. A wonderful compilation by the El Paso Genealogical Society perfectly illustrates the point that in wide open spaces, where towns were far apart, the newspapers of the largest city in the area may well have served the functions of a local paper for a very large territory. El Paso was one such city, its papers providing news of people who lived in and moved through the area on their way west. "Births, Deaths & Marriages from El Paso Newspapers ... for Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Indian Territory (call number 979B539) was the result of a twenty year project and consists of four volumes covering newspapers to 1900.

Each volume is divided into sections by event. Death notices are by far the most numerous and normally include the decedent's name, age, and place, date, and cause or circumstances of death, but can also provide names of survivors, birth place, residence or destination, and occupation. Some entries are brief, such as that for Boatman, a Negro who "dropped dead" in San Antonio in 1884. Others include detailed biographical information. Entries are arranged alphabetically, but there is an index of other names mentioned at the end of each volume.

So, if one knows only that Frank Middleton killed someone in Smithville, Texas, in 1895, looking up his name will lead you to the citation for Alexander Jenkins, the victim.

Marriage notices include the names of bride and groom, place and date of marriage, and might include birth places, officiant's name, and the names of other family members. These notices can also supply unexpected details, as in the 1897 report that Laura E. Flint married Thomas W. Wiggins, after obtaining a divorce from her former husband the same day.

Birth notices normally include parents' names (usually Mr. and Mrs.), birth date and place, or other information about the family, but may not name the child, only note its gender. The birth sections also include announcements for birthdays, baptisms, and adoptions, as well as items such as the 1885 note that Fannie, Adolph, and Helen Schultz were being educated in New York City.

Additional sections, labeled "oddities" or "funnies" appear in some volumes, and volume two includes a UFO section with a sketch of an airship that appeared in El Paso in 1897. So, as with all newspapers of the time, one never knows what treasure one will find.

RAFFLE

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00!

Tickets for an the upcoming raffle are on sale now and may be purchased at the February and March meetings, and prior to the April meeting.. The drawing will be held at the April meeting. Donated items include:

- two hours computer assistance or photo restoration donated by Margaret Fox
- one hour airplane ride over Corvallis donated by Bill Gleaves
- a beautiful white afghan donated by Tonya Rawie.

The more tickets you buy, the more likely you are to win!

*Oregon Genealogical Society
Spring Seminar*

March 7, 2009

8:30 am-5:00 pm

Putting the Pieces Together

with George Morgan

Planning a *Very* Successful Genealogical Research Trip

Regardless of whether you're going to the library or heading out on a genealogical vacation, advance preparation is essential. You have to know who you are researching, what information you hope to find, what resources are available, and where to find them.

This seminar discusses numerous resources you can use to prepare for the most effective genealogical research trips you'll ever make. Learn to maximize your research time the way professionals do it, and return home with a genealogical treasure trove.

Bring 'Em Back to Life: Developing an Ancestor Profile

Organizing the information we collect into a biographical profile can help you begin to recognize character traits and decision patterns. And the profile also provides an invaluable, portable research tool that avoids your taking voluminous amounts of notes with you on research trips.

A methodology structured model for taking the details you collect about your ancestor and creating a biographical profile. This approach will not only help you organize your research, it can become the basis for writing detailed biographical sketches and family genealogies.

Introduction to U.S. Immigration Records

Making the leap across the ocean doesn't have to be an impossible dream. Learn the history of ships' passenger lists and immigration records from the 1600s to 1954. See examples of many types of these documents and learn about the available resources.

Ships Arrivals prior to 1820

Customs Passenger Lists (1820 to 1891)

Creation of the Immigration Bureau and New Processing Begins in 1891

Contents of the Forms

Indexes and Finding Aids - Printed, Microfilmed, & Online Methodologies for Locating *Your* Ancestors

Using the HeritageQuest® Databases

The HeritageQuest Online databases by Pro-Quest undoubtedly contain some of the richest American genealogical materials.

U.S. Federal Census Images for 1790 through 1930

More than 25,000 digitized local histories

PERSI

Revolutionary War Era document images, including those from the Revolutionary War, Indian Wars, and War of 1812, Pension files and bounty land warrant files

This seminar will help you unlock the power and content of each of these databases, learn how to move through the collection of documents, read and understand the source citations, adjust the image polarity for maximum clarity and printability.

SEMINAR LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street, Eugene, OR,

COST: \$45 LUNCH: \$9:00 (or bring your own) SPECIFY: Vegetarian, beef, turkey, ham

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Oregon Genealogical Society or OGS

MAIL TO: OGS, PO Box 10306, Eugene, OR 97440-2306

QUESTIONS/INFO: Leave message at 541-686-1421 or ogsinfo@comcast.net

oard Meetings are usually two Mondays before the second Saturday [our regular meeting time]. Dates of the upcoming **Board** meetings are:
2 March for the 14 March meeting. Cookies — Gene Newcomb

Membership Information

Names, email and phone numbers removed for security reasons.

Dues are \$15.00 for single and families per calendar year.
Dues paid after September 1st are credited to next year.
Web page URL www.bcgs-oregon.org

More Member Info.

Our meetings are held on the **second Saturday, September through June**, in the NE Dining Hall of the College United Methodist Church, on the east side of the parking lot, in the 1100 block of Philomath Blvd. Business meeting is at 10:00 AM with the program at 11:00 AM. **Our Library, in the museum annex, will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 PM and after meetings on Saturdays.** Members may check out up to five books and return books any time the library is open.

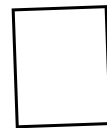
Canadian Interest Group

The Canadian Interest Group will not meet on a regular basis until further notice. If you have specific questions about research in Canada, or if you would like to look through my resources, please contact me at: 752-2243; e-mail: sprawlinson@proaxis.com. Thank You. **Pat Rawlinson**

Odds and Ends

Our number at the OSU Thrift Shop on Second Street in Corvallis is **492**. Please keep your Santiam and Flav-R-Pak labels coming in to the Library. There is a plastic sack in the library to keep them in. Leila Crawford is in charge of the label program. All you need is the UPC Symbol from the label. Be sure that you leave some area around the label when you tear it off.

THIS IS ALMOST OUR ONLY FUND RAISER!



The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:
 S=Single; F=Family; E=Exchange.
 Number is last of year 9=2009
 L9 is Charter Honorary Life Member

Mailing Label Coding



Stamp