



Benton County Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER



Located in Philomath, Oregon
Founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon
Volume 39 No.6: June 2021
<https://www.bcgs-oregon.org>

News From President George

Happy June everyone as we slowly progress toward more freedoms that we have given up for over a year. The board has a planned meeting on May 28th, we hope to discuss a possible return to our regular meetings along with other BCGS business. Please watch for a report to the members.

What's Inside

Page 1: **July 4th in Benton County, 1861**
Page 2: **Celebrating 50 years of BCGS!**
Pages 3-4: **Presidential Pardons for Confederate soldiers**
Pages 5-7: **June 6, 1944: Commemorating D-Day in Normandie**

The Glorious Fourth in Benton

(**excerpts** from the Oregon Weekly Union, July 8, 1861, Corvallis, Oregon)

The old Spirit Awakened—Great Gathering of the People --Three Thousand Persons Present— --Patriotic Speeches, Sentiments and Toasts--

At sunrise, a salute of thirteen guns fired by a party of soldiers from Fort Hoskins, detailed by Captain Dent for that purpose---aroused our citizens from their slumbers.

This was the signal for a merry ring out of the city bells for half an hour.

At ten, the procession formed at the Court-house, and marched to the grove on the right hand, immediately south of Mary's river bridge. Here comfortable arrangements had been made by the liberality of our citizens for accommodation of the multitude.

A commodious platform was erected for the speakers, and cannopied [sic] over it, was the emblem of our nationality---the "Star Spangled Banner." Comfortable seats were arranged in front of the platform, for at least a thousand ladies; yet there was not sitting room for all. Two large improvised tables, each, perhaps, twenty rods long, were arranged at right angles with each other.

Twelve hundred pounds of beef and mutton, and a corresponding quantity of pies and cakes, filled the tables. The exercises of the day commenced by an earnest prayer from the Chaplain, Rev. O. Fisher. He dwelt touchingly and feelingly upon the present lamentable condition of our beloved country...

More about this July 4th 1861 story on page 7

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

This year, 2021, is the 50th anniversary of Benton County Genealogical Society's beginning! Charter Membership was closed on 31 December 1971. Let's celebrate those first members who did the hard volunteer work to make the Society we enjoy today. On our website is the story of the Society, written in 1996 on its 25th anniversary. www.bcg-s-oregon.org. Click on "History of BCGS." **We can remember them when we're able to get together this fall!**

If you know any of the charter members, please send me something about them for September's newsletter. Thanks

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP

December 1971

Corvallis members

Ruth H. Arnold, Hazel D. Beals, Eugene Mitch Beard, Gladys Bierman, Leona Brandenburg, Ednah L. Breckon, John Breckon, Marjorie Burianek, Lotta Chapman, Celia W. Coon, Stanley P. Farwell, Aaron Glasgow, Elaine Heckart, Edith Hughes, Clara Jans, Alene Lewis, Peggy Mason, Harriet Moore, Bessie G. Murphy, Velma Parsons, Mary Peffer, Bernice Robison, James Russell, Donna F. Souls, Ysabel Thomas, Glenn Ware, Louisa 'Billie' Webb, Gene Westfall, Harriette Westfall, Edna Weise, Betty Wilson, Marjorie M. Wink, Josephine Zadina

Albany members

Elizabeth Akin, Ruby E. Boyes, Marie Britten, Joel Fosdick, Margaret Fosdick, Mildred Blair Hawkins, Ruth Lines Motley, Rex Palmer, Louis St. Dennis, Jean Vanderpool

Alsea members

Mrs. J. W. Holbrook

Cresswell members

Marjory Akin Crawford

Eugene members

Lois Inman Baker, Maxine Simmons Bell, Addie Dyal, Mrs. Edward Winn

Lebanon members

Harley Haskins, Helen Haskins, Veva Large, Edith R Mill, John Miller, Norma P. Pennington

Salem members

Erma Lee Brown

Sweet Home members

Carla Healy

Pullman, WA members

Frances Milne

Thank you to Linda Olsen for realizing we have something important to celebrate this year!

U.S. Confederate Applications for Presidential Pardons 1865-1867

This database has the original papers for confederate soldiers who wanted to become citizens of the United States again. It includes letters of recommendation, perhaps a letter from the person who is asking for the pardon, the Amnesty Oath, Certificate of Registration and the Pardon.

You can find the originals on Ancestry or on Family Search. On Family Search, you are routed to Fold 3, so if you don't already have it, you would have to pay for it. The following are transcribed papers for James K. Metcalfe, no relation, but someone I was interested in. He was the brother of Robert Metcalfe who was the first Indian Agent at Fort Hoskins.

(The original applications are in long hand, but very hard to read. I decided to transcribe them.)

Washington DC
July 8th/66

I knew Mr Metcalfe in Oregon previous to the war, and believe he will keep faithfully any engagement he assumes. I [unreadable] commend his pardon.

Gen CC Augur [the former Captain
at Fort Hoskins]

Surgeon Genls. Office
Washington
Feby 8th/1866

I was well acquainted with Mr Metcalfe in Oregon and entirely concur in the above opinion expressed by General Augur.

CH Crane
Surgeon U S Army

To his Excellency the President of the United States, the Memorial of J K Metcalfe, of Washington County, State of Texas, respectfully represent:

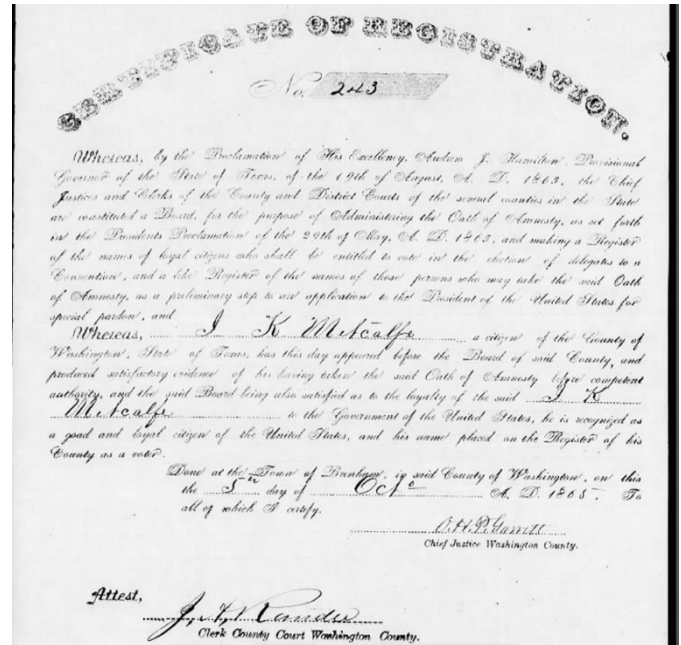
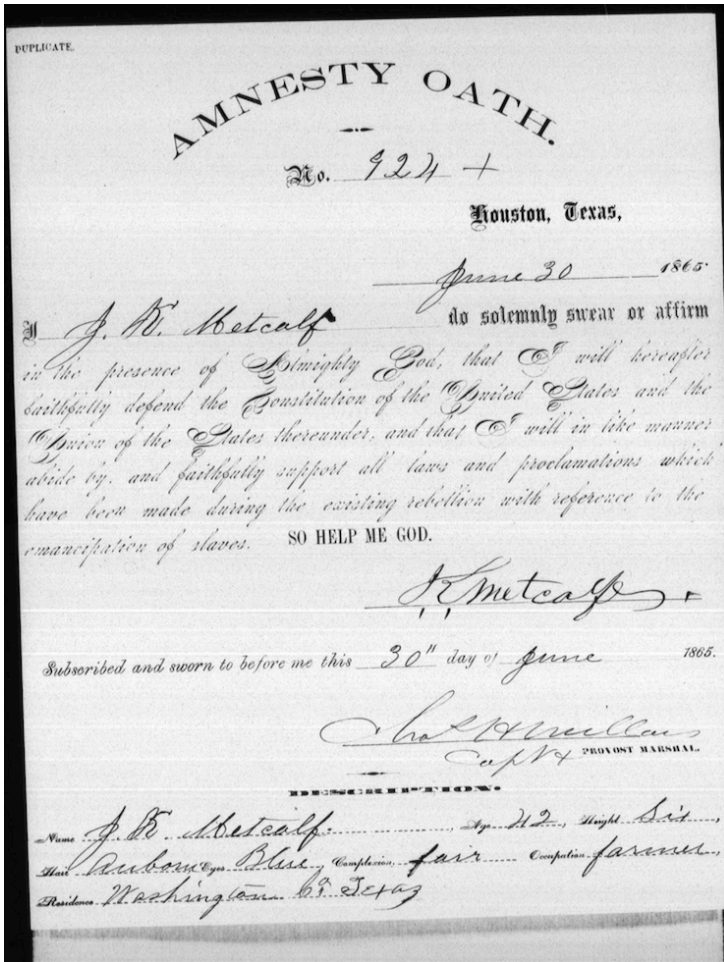
That he is by occupation a Farmer, that he has never borne Arms against the United States, or held any office under the confederate government; that he was drafted and afterwards conscripted into the Rebel Service, and was employed in the capacity of Wagon-Master and Overseer.

He further represents that he has taken the Amnesty Oath, and has received a certificate of registration under the Proclamation of the Provincial Governor of Texas, bearing date August 19, 1865.

He further represents, that he is excluded from the benefits of a Pardon under the 13th Section of your Excellency's Proclamation of the 29th of May 1865 and therefore prays that your Excellency will give him a full Pardon; and as in duty bound your [unreadable] will ever pray.

J K Metcalfe,

Washington City,
February 8th, 1866



The first paragraph contains the Certificate of Registration. The last paragraph is his Pardon.

The Pardon

Whereas, J K Metcalfe a citizen of the County of Washington, State of Texas, has this day appeared before the Board of said County, and produced satisfactory evidence of his having taken the said Oath of Amnesty before competent authority , and the said Board being also satisfied as to the loyalty of the said J K Metcalfe to the Government of the United States, he is recognized as a good and loyal citizen of the United States, and his name placed on the Register of his County as a voter.

Done at the Town Of Brenham, in said County of Washington, on this the 5th day of Oct A.D. 1860. To all of which I certify.

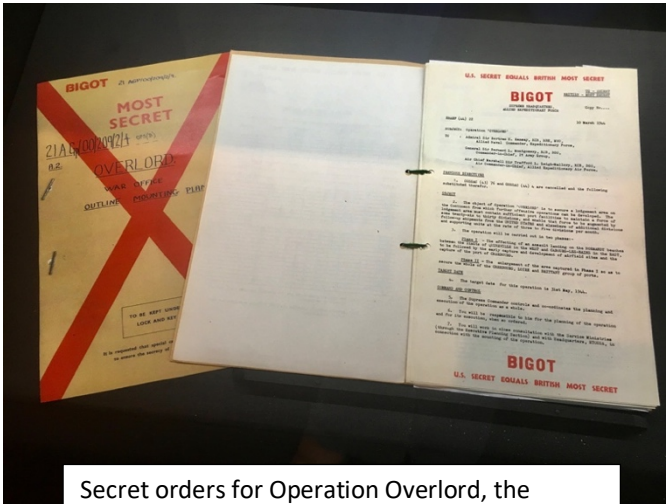
O.H.P. Garrett
 Chief Justice Washington County

Attest: JA Randle
 Clerk County Court Washington County

Where to find the Applications

Ancestry: U S Confederate Applications for Presidential Pardons 1865-1867:
 www.ancestry.com
 Family Search. Fold3.com

June 6, 1944: Commemorating D-Day in Normandie



Secret orders for Operation Overlord, the invasion of France.

In September, 2019, my husband and I visited Omaha and Utah, the two beaches the American military was assigned to for D-Day. Earlier in the summer, the world recognized the 75th year since the fateful day, June 6, 1944, that turned the tide of WW II toward victory in Europe.

After a few days in Calais, which had lots of history, too, we decided that we had to go to Normandie. We hopped into our car and finally found our way out of Calais. We were grateful that our car had driving directions with maps and spoken directions in English. If not, we probably would still be on a four or five lane roundabout somewhere on the French coast.

Arriving at Omaha beach in mid-afternoon, we had some time to feel the overcast and windswept beach and to ponder the quiet of our day to the chaos of June 6. We left the beach to come back the next day to absorb it all.

The next day at Omaha Beach, we took our time to think about what happened there. Even though I had read about and seen documentaries about D-Day, I hadn't understood where the cliffs (Pointe du Hoc) were that soldiers had to climb to take the German artillery batteries. The beach where so many died continued far from the cliffs as well.

Today the beach is quiet with a series of gleaming steel sculptures reaching to the sky in honor of the 35,000 soldiers who landed there that day. The artist Anilore Banon placed "Wings of Hope" so the ebb and flow of the sea always connects to them.



Pointe du Hoc is the long cliff in the upper left corner.

Utah Beach

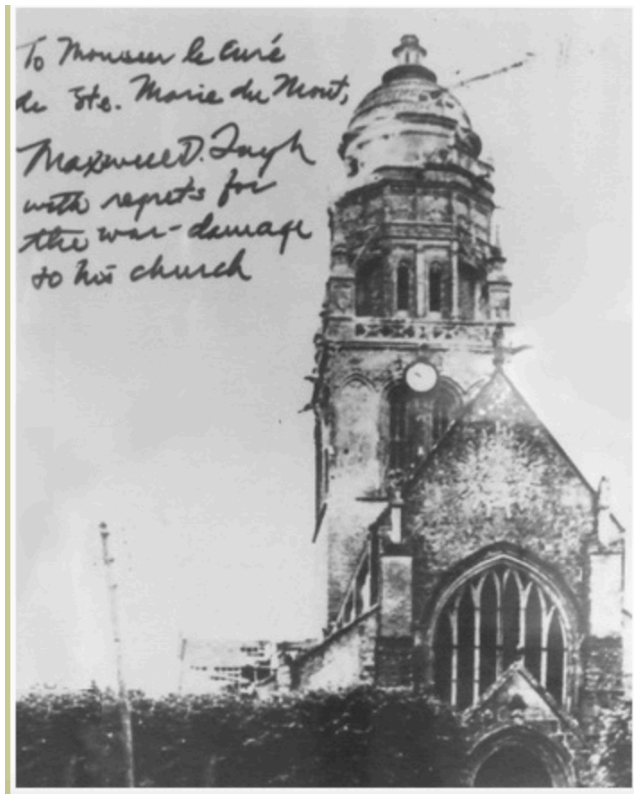
To reach Utah Beach, we drove down a country road with three feet wide hedgerows on both sides. We finally understood the impossibility for soldiers trying to get through them. Halfway down the road, we came to a village named Sainte Marie du Mont. It wasn't until later that day that we knew the significance of this village to the war effort.

Three miles later we came to Utah Beach, parked our car and walked to the memorial area where we found a wonderful museum. It is built partially from a German bunker on the sand dunes where the allies landed. The landing was chaotic at first because of a low fog bank near the sand dunes and windy weather causing the sea and parachute landings to be thrown off course. One of the markers to help the bombers know where they were was a house in the dunes known as the **Red-Roofed House**. The house, remarkably, is still there.



Back to the village of Sainte Marie du Mont:

The 11th century church, Notre-Dame de l'Assomption, has an intriguing story from D-Day. The Germans were using the church tower to watch the sea shore a few miles away. The 101st Airborne Division was able to liberate the church that same day, but in the chaos, friendly fire struck the church after it had been taken by the 101st. General Maxwell Taylor, who was in charge of the invasion, later wrote a letter to apologize to the priest: **"To Monsieur le Curé, Sainte Marie du Mont, Maxwell D. Taylor with regrets for the war damage to his church"**.



Ever since we had the privilege to see the monuments at Omaha and Utah Beaches, I've felt a connection to these two places, especially Utah Beach and the village of Sainte Marie du Mont. Part of my connection has to do with the weather--chilly, overcast, windy--enough to feel some small bond with those who endured the weather and everything else that came their way. But most of all, I think the two above places made me understand the bravery of the military and the civilians of the area.

1. The last section of the museum at Utah Beach had larger than life cutouts of individual Allied soldiers who liberated the village. Reading the text with the photo made me look into each person's eyes while he told his story.

2. The second place is the village where plaques are on many buildings thanking the allies and telling stories of civilian heroes.

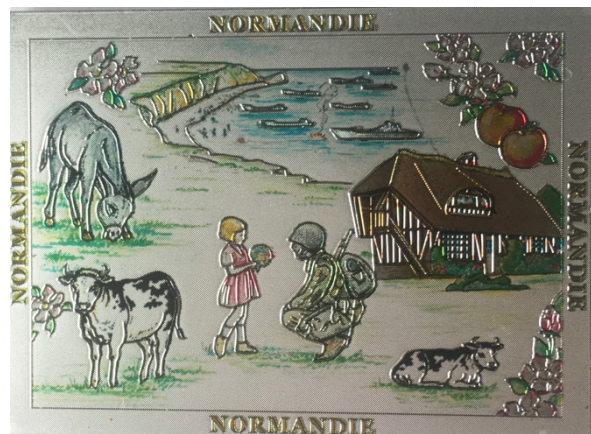
There were so many places to explore. We had barely started when we had to return to Calais to begin the journey home. Below are some websites you might enjoy about the area's history.

www.normandythenandnow.com/d-day-drop-zone-c-and-remarkable-bravery-at-sainte-marie-du-mont

www.britannica.com/place/Utah-Beach

www.strijdbewijs.nl/d/day19.htm

Shared by Sue Van Laere



Upper left: Pointe du Hoc with soldiers climbing the cliffs; Middle right: Red-Roofed House; Allied soldier receiving thanks for liberating her village; Animals: symbol of people's hope for the tranquility that had been theirs

More about the story on page 1

The Civil War had barely started in July 1861, but Oregonians had opinions on both sides. The Oregon Weekly Union paper was blatantly on the side of states' rights to own slaves. Benton County had its share of both positions. Since the Weekly Union paper was so open about states' rights, it seemed strange that the editors wrote so glowingly of the 4th. But this was just the beginning of the war and Oregon was far from the action in the East. Those who championed states' rights still had the belief that their conviction would prevail.

Benton County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370
President: George Davidson, 928-205-2121
Gid1943@gmail.com
Vice President: Kathryn Moss
mosskathryn@gmail.com
Secretary: Debbi White
genodebbi@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lois Courtney
loiscourtney@cmug.com

Appointed Positions
Membership: OPEN
Librarian: OPEN
Programs: OPEN
Historian: OPEN
Photographer: OPEN

Audit: Connie Patterson
Refreshments: Pegge Gee
Host: Kathryn Moss
Research: Lois Courtney
Book Sales: Maridee Symons
Website: George Davidson
Facebook: Sue Van Laere
Publicity: Lois Courtney
Library Volunteers: Lois Courtney
Writers Group: Sue Van Laere
Newsletter Editor: Sue Van Laere
vanlaere@proaxis.com



Blog.genealogybank.com

HAVE A WONDERFUL
SUMMER! SEE YOU IN THE
FALL