

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

February 2003

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Program 8 Feb, 2003

Kith and Kin By Charlene Talbot

Byron Bray, President of the Linn Genealogical Society, will be our guest speaker. He will be demonstrating the process that the Linn Genealogical Society is using to reconstruct their 1890 census.

UPCOMING GENEALOGY BOOK FAIR

A Genealogy Book Fair is being planned for May 2003. Watch future newsletters for details as they develop.

Condolences

The society was informed that former member **Linwood Bier** died December 4, 2003.

Myrtle Russell, wife of BCGS secretary and charter member Jim Russell died January 10, 2003.

BCGS member **Dale Moss** passed away in January 2003.

February is Black History Month.

Most people know very little about early African-American settlers in the Pacific Northwest. The link below is to the website of the End of the Oregon Trail Center. If you scroll down the mainpage, there are some items celebrating Black history: a timeline, biographies, etc.

Click here: [Oregon Trail History Library - Main Menu](#)

This is another site that encapsulates the black settler experience in Oregon. <http://users.wi.net/~maracon/lesson5.html>

Feb 14th is Oregon Statehood Day.

This year marks the 145th anniversary of statehood. One fun site that was found is "On This Day in Oregon History." <http://www.onthisdayinoregon.com>

Emergence of a Genealogist: Earle Grieg

"You could say I was born into genealogy," Earle began. "My mother's entire family came to Benton County in the 1800s. My mother was very much interested in keeping the records, and many of her relatives saved photographs of people she was able to identify. As a child, I was taken to many reunions of these different family groups. Since we were related to so many families, there were lots of reunions. Sometimes it seemed like everyone in Benton County was a relative--Kings, Allens, Prices, Ritners, Simpsons and more. Numerous wagon trains came to Benton county and of course the children all intermarried. We never, ever missed Memorial Day, as it was called then, at the Kings Valley cemetery. Each year it was like a mini reunion. I realize now how privileged I was to meet those 'old-timers.'

"My granddad used to laugh about Kings Valley having so many Northerners and Southerners. Granddad wasn't old enough to see it, but the story goes that they all lined up in that big field behind the fire station where you turn off to go to Hoskins. There happened to be a tavern on the Hoskins road for the benefit of the soldiers at the fort. The Kings Valley men were arguing about the Civil War and decided to settle it right there. Then someone said, 'Oh, why don't we go down to the tavern first and have a few beers?' That ended the Civil War in Kings Valley."

Interestingly, while we were interviewing Earle, Nelda Kingsbury, another member of our Society stopped by. She and Earle talked about the Bevins history which Nelda had donated to the library. In that history was the same Civil War story, except it was written from her Southern ancestor's point of view.

Earle said that Nahum King was the patriarch. He and Sarepta had 16 children. Ten of those children, some of whom were already married and had families, accompanied Nahum to Oregon. An eleventh child came a few years later.

"During summers," Earle told us, "I was practically raised on the Isaac King homestead. The house had hand-hewn baseboards. The ceilings were about 12 feet high.

Continued next page

The outside studs ran from the floor to the top of the second storey. They must have been 20 feet long. The barn still stands. It was made of hand-hewn, mortised timbers held with round wooden pegs.

"Isaac died from a gunshot in that barn. My brother and I used to look for the bullet hole. Years later I learned that Mom and her sisters had also looked for that hole. None of them could get any friends to spend the night because they were afraid Isaac's ghost might appear. I guess if he was there, he kept a low profile.

"I don't claim to be a researcher, I'm more like a collector. There have been a lot of books written about these families. For instance, the Mark Phinney interviews were great fun to read. So many of the people Phinney interviewed in the 1930s were my relatives or people I knew as a child."

Earle was pleased that he had just located his great grandfather, the one who donated Kings Valley Cemetery from his land claim. He buried his first wife there in 1864, remarried and left Oregon. His grave was discovered in Dayton, Washington. Another Society member, Lee Gentemann, found him while examining cemetery records in eastern Washington.

"One day I'm discouraged, and the next day along comes a wonderful breakthrough like that," he said.

The oldest marker in the Kings Valley cemetery is for one of the triplets that were grandchildren of Nahum King. Another of the triplets was Earl's great great grandmother. The third triplet is also buried in Kings Valley.

"There have been so many discoveries," Earle said. "About five years ago Lee saw a query from a woman in Florida who was looking for the Allens who came west in 1847. I contacted her and hit the jackpot. She started sending me information.

"Apparently my Charles Allen had four brothers who did not come west. He also had a half brother and five half sisters. But we cannot find a beginning and an ending for David Allen, Charles's father. He had been an apprentice in Massachusetts and there is no indication who his parents were. The number of David Allens in Massachusetts in the 1790s is mind-boggling."

Earle credits a great deal of his Allen information to the late Myrtle Russell, the recently deceased wife of Charter Member Jim Russell. Her first husband was descended from Allens and she helped him research them in the late 1970s and early 1980s. All of the current Allen researchers have benefitted and are grateful for her work.

Earle's advice to others, which he's sure has been said many times, is: Keep looking. Don't close any doors. He added, "I often find I should have looked in a wider circle, like the surrounding counties."

Library Report

BCGS Librarian, Ken Bielman, is continuing to catalog the Harding Collection of donated books and sort for duplicate books to be sold at the BCGS Genealogy Book Fair in May.

BCGS New Members

(since last newsletter)

Nedra & Edward Putman
4066 NW Boxwood Dr.
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 738-6499
edputman@juno.com

Gladys Seifert
34185 Powell Hills Loop
Shedd, OR 97377
541-466-5027

Lois Vesely
1212 SE Edgewater Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97333

2003 Membership Renewals

(since last newsletter)

Ralph Batchelor
no email
May Dasch
no email
Jeanne Day
no email
Daniel Froehlich
defro@proaxis.com
Wendy James
wendymariejames@aol.com
Judy Juntunen
jmrjuntunen@aol.com
Candy Leelaamornvichet
leelaas@proaxis.com
Barbara Manderscheid
bam@peak.org
Sharon Osborn-Ryan
sharonor@aracnet.com
Charley & Barbara Potter
no email
Martin Thompson
mthomp9689@aol.com

Corrections

John & Sandra Potter
sanjohn@proaxis.com

New Address

Barbara Johnson
12143 Galice Rd.
Merlin, OR 97532

UPDATE ON THE BENTON COUNTY NEWSPAPERS PROJECT

We all know how much genealogical information can be contained in an obituary, and one of the aims of our Society has been to help genealogists who had ancestors in Benton County by making local information available. Since the Newspapers Project is on-going, it seems like a good idea to let members know from time to time what's happening.

At first the plan was to abstract only births and deaths. Later marriage write-ups were added. A form for entering the information was made, the reels were given numbers, and a sign-up sheet to adopt a reel was sent around at meetings for those who thought it might be fun to read through old newspapers. There are still blanks on this sign-up sheet, so no current members need feel left out!

The Benton County Historical Society, the public library in Corvallis and the OSU library all have these films and microfilm readers, so they can be accessed at any of these three places. Parking is probably easiest at the Museum in Philomath.

Abstractions are entered chronologically. A good many of the reels have been adopted; many have been completed. Whenever we get about a thousand names, we put out an addendum. We are currently have over 850 names towards Addendum Four.

These names will be added to our Benton County GenWeb site, and copies of Addendum Four will be made for the Museum, the Corvallis/Benton County library, and the Society library. Copies are also made for several individuals who answer requests for lookups.

Great Resource for National Archives orders:

Submitted by BCGS member Lee Gentemann

Tired of waiting weeks for orders from the National Archives in Washington D.C.?

A company named D C Research, run by Michael O. Anderson, will perform any service needed at the National Archives and usually can provide copies in approximately seven days. His web site, shown below, has a list of all of his services, and has a link to contact him by e-mail. <http://www.impactvr.com/DCResearch/>

I've used his service a few times and although he charges more than you would pay to the National Archives, he is very reliable and worth the extra cost.

MY FAMILY COAT OF ARMS TIES AT THE BACK... IS THAT NORMAL?

Researching in Virginia?

The following information has been reprinted from the *Willamette Valley Genealogical Society* newsletter, February 2003, where it was reprinted from the *Skagit Valley Genealogical Society*, January-February, 2003. It originally appeared in the *Carolina Herald and Newsletter*, April, May, June 2002.

From 1728 to as late as 1863, a person born or living in Virginia could have been in:

- Any part of ILLINOIS from 1781 to Statehood in 1818.
- Any part of INDIANA from 1787 to Statehood in 1816.
- Any part of KENTUCKY from 1775 to Statehood in 1792.
- Any part of MARYLAND from 1775 to Statehood in 1792.
- Any part of NORTH CAROLINA from 1728 to 1779.
- Any part of OHIO from 1778 to Statehood in 1803.
- Any part of PENNSYLVANIA from 1752 to 1786.
- Any part of TENNESSEE from 1760 to 1803.
- Any part of WEST VIRGINIA from 1769 to possibly as late as 1863.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Benton County Genealogical Society, 11 January 2003

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. Danell Auckerman, president, began the meeting with several announcements. The Secretary of the Society, Jim Russell, was not present because of the death of his wife, Myrtle Russell. Danell also reported the death of member Dale Moss. Betty Swan, another member, was having surgery that day. Danell also announced the opening of her bookstore: The Village Genealogy Bookshop. She then read the minutes for the December meeting. Charlene Talbot agreed to take minutes for the current meeting.

Gene Newcomb, treasurer, reported that he has paid the yearly fees to the museum for our use of the museum annex, giving the Society a short-term deficit of \$405.17.

Bill Gleaves, program chairman, was absent.

The hostess, Margaret Hays, reported that the cookie requests are all filled through the end of June.

Ken Bielman, librarian, reported that most of the new shelves have been installed in the Annex. The books we received from the Harding estate are to be placed there. It was suggested they be called the Harding Collection. Ken is donating two additional bookshelves for this area.

- Restrictions of check-out time limits have been removed on the group of CDs donated by Gene Newcomb.
- A discussion followed on where to put the revolving bookstand, which has had to be removed from the library in order to plug in the new computer and printer.

The Book Committee had no report.

There have been no new queries to report on.

There was no Newsletter report as editor Teri Greene was absent.

Mary Hardenbrook was not present to report on the Society's activities and travel. President Danell Auckerman said the field trip to the Linn County Society's meeting the previous Saturday was attended by twelve members from Benton County. Their library room is larger than ours, but their book collection is not as large.

Jim Russell being absent, there was no report on the surname file.

Charlene Talbot said the the Benton County Newspapers project now has about 850 names of marriages, births, and obituaries extracted toward the next addendum.

As to old business, the printer/scanner donated by Leon Stratton has been hooked up to the computer and is in working order.

New business concerned a proposed book exchange with other societies for the month of May, to be held in our meeting hall. This arises because some of the books from the Harding Collection are duplicates of books the Society already owns. Gene Newcomb agreed to check to make sure the room would be available in May. It was suggested that Ebay be consulted for pricing.

Damaris Reynolds reported on the newly formed Oregon Cultural Trust and the tax credit available if contributions are made to other cultural organizations and the Trust. The idea was put forward of applying to them for a grant to help fund the cost of using other documents to replace the 1890 Census.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

THIS 'N' THAT

Mabelle Martsching is still working on the **Huard** family query.

IT'S AN UNUSUAL FAMILY THAT HATH NEITHER A LADY OF THE EVENING OR THIEF.

Oregon Genealogical Society's Spring Seminar

The Oregon Genealogical Society's spring seminar, "**Breaking Through Those Brick Walls**" is scheduled for **22 March 2003** from 8:30 A.M.-- 4:00 P.M. at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1385 Cal Young Road, Eugene, Oregon 97401

Registration: 8:30 - 9:00 A.M.

Cost: \$40.00 which includes lunch. (Early registration is recommended.) You may mail your early registration to the Oregon Genealogical Society (address is given below), stating your name, address, and e-mail address.

Program Highlights:

Keynote speaker:

Cindy Webb: Cindy is a dynamic speaker who holds an audience's attention with the use of multi-media and Power Point speaking strategies. She will make two presentations:

"**Using Collateral Lines.**" Change your strategy--research the siblings and aunts and uncles of your ancestor.

"**Clues for Finding Female Ancestors.**" Explore an array of strategies to trace your female ancestors.

Additional speakers include:

Joan A. Hunter: Joan is a certified genealogist with expertise in basic genealogy instruction, methodologies and problem solving. Her topic is:

"**One Piece Upon the Pine Plain, Liberty of a Cartway, and Apples for Life --- The Genealogical Value of Deeds.**" Learn to use deeds to not only break down your brick walls, but also to provide a fascinating glimpse into your ancestors' lives and values.

Leslie Brinkley Lawson: Leslie is a professional genealogist with expertise in the use of interlibrary loans. Her topic is:

"**Newspaper Research: Find it in the Past, Preserve it for the Future.**"

Learn the strategies for obtaining newspapers on microfilm via interlibrary loan and their value in doing your genealogical research.

Contacts for further information:

The Oregon Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 10306
Eugene, OR 97440-2306
Phone: (541) 345-0399

Ferne M. Kellow, President
Oregon Genealogical Society
E-mail address: fernemell@attbi.com

Upcoming Programs

March 8 — Sally Hilles of Hazelnut Hills will be our speaker at the March 8th meeting. She will talk about "The Lost Wagon Train." The museum staff is invited to attend.

May — Genealogy Book Fair. Watch for details later

Board Meetings are usually two Mondays before the second Saturday [our regular meeting time]. Dates of the upcoming Board meetings are:
24 February for the **8 March** meeting. Cookies—Teri Greene
31 March for the **12 April** meeting. Cookies—Gene Newcomb
28 April for the **10 May** meeting. Cookies—Tonya Rawie
2 June for the **14 June** meeting. Cookies—Bill Gleave

Membership Information

President	Danell Aukerman danellauk@attbi.com	745-2003
1st Vice Pres	Bill Gleave gleavew@peak.org	738-8189
2nd Vice Pres	Margaret Hays	757-8633
Secretary	Jim Russell russellmj@proaxis.com	745-6423
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb	
Librarian	Ken Bielman bielman@pioneer.net	758-3769
Membership	Tonya Rawie Tonyamra@aol.com	812-1602
Newsletter Editor	Teri Greene mmteri@aol.com	929-6347
Publishing	Lee Gentemann leegent@open.org	
Activities	Mary Hardenbrook hardeme@exchangenet.net	

Dues are \$12.00 single and \$15.00 family per calendar year.
 Dues paid after September 1st are credited to next year.
 Web page URL <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbentgs/> board minutes are posted here.

More Member Info

Our meetings are held on the **second Saturday of 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.

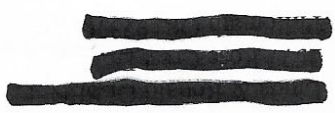
Canadian Interest Group

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. Leifa 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!**

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The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:
 S=Single; F=Family; E=Exchange.
 Number is last of year; 0=2000
 L0 is Charter Honorary Life Member

Mailing Label Coding

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