



# NewsLetter

## Benton County Genealogical Society

October 2004

Volume Nineteen  
Number Eight

### 9 October Program - Armenian Research

Robert Clark will talk about the Massacre of Armenians by the Turks in 1895 and 1915, the destruction of records, and his search of alternative records. His family was seriously impacted by those events and fled Armenia as a result of the massacres.

### Upcoming Programs

- November 13, 2004 - TBA
- December 11, 2004 - Christmas Party and Raffle.
- January 8, 2005 - Judy Juntunen - Crystal Lake Cemetery.
- February 12, 2005 - Jerry Baker - Camp Adair and Prisoners of War

*It's great to look back, but  
don't stare.*

*Satchel Page*

### "Christmas 1855" Presentation

Al LePage will give a special presentation at the Newell House on Saturday, October 16, 2004. Al will assume the character of Dr. Robert Newell, and the theme is "Christmas 1855." Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is \$4.00. There will be special activities all day long. The Newell House is located at 8089 Champoeg Road, right next to the entrance to Champoeg State Park.

*Reprinted from the Newsletter of Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, Vol. 34, Issue 1, September 2004.*

### ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

It's time again to nominate new BCGS officers. We are currently seeking someone for the position of **President**.

As outlined in the Benton County Genealogical Society By-laws—Duties of Officers, the duties of the **President** are to preside at all regular and special meetings of the society and to perform such other duties as necessary.

If you are interested in this position or know of a person who would make a good president, please contact Danell Aukerman at (541) 745-2003 or e-mail her at [danellauk@comcast.net](mailto:danellauk@comcast.net)

All other officers are up for re-election.

**Get Well Wishes**  
The Society extends Get Well Wishes to Jean Grube, Mabelle Martsching and Betty Swan. We hope you are feeling better soon.

### Board Meeting Dates

Here is a list of the BCGS Board meeting dates through June 2005.

- November 1, 2004
- November 29, 2004
- December 27, 2004
- January 31, 2005
- February 28, 2005
- March 28, 2005
- May 2, 2005
- May 31, 2005



### Raffle Items Sought

Do you have a nice item you might want to donate for our annual Christmas Raffle? If so, please contact Danell Aukerman at 745-2003 or e-mail her at: [danellauk@comcast.net](mailto:danellauk@comcast.net)



## Veteran's Day Ceremony at Crystal Lake Cemetery

By Judy Juntunen

On November 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. members and friends of the genealogical society are invited to attend a Veteran's Day Service at Crystal Lake Cemetery to honor SSgt. Robert Jesse Oldham and dedicate his gravestone. SSgt. Oldham died in truck accident at Camp Adair in 1943, and due to a misunderstanding his grave was never marked.

His unmarked grave was discovered this summer when members of the Crystal Lake Cemetery Committee were working on a survey of the cemetery. In doing research to find out exactly who Robert Oldham was and why his grave hadn't been marked they discovered he'd died at Camp Adair. His obituary listed him as a member of the 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Further research on the internet about military markers stated that a death certificate was needed and someone in his family had to request the military stone. Enter Lee Gentemann of the Benton County Genealogical Society, who helped get a death certificate and found Robert's nephew, via an Oldham family history website. His nephew, Thomas (Tom) Jefferson Oldham, was part of the family who moved to Oregon. He was more than willing to sign the request, and has provided some biographical information about his uncle.

Robert Jesse Oldham was born October 29, 1919, in Blanket, Texas. He was the fifth child of ten children born to Thomas Jefferson Oldham and Nannie Lee Robison. The family moved from Texas to New Mexico in the summer of 1930 "via a covered wagon and an old beat-up pickup truck." He grew up with his siblings, as well as nine cousins who came to live with the family when his mother's sister died.

His father died when Robert was 16 yrs of age, and he worked on the home farm to help support his family. In 1938, when he was 19 years old, he joined the United States Army Cavalry at Ft. Bliss, Texas. The family remembers that he dearly loved the cavalry and the opportunity to have his own personal string of cavalry mounts, of which he was very proud.

When World War II began in 1941 Robert's detachment at Ft. Bliss was transferred to Camp Adair, Oregon, as a mechanized division. This was the time when the cavalry was trading their horses for jeeps and trucks; however, Robert was one of the fortunate few. He was able to take two of his mounts to Oregon.

With the outbreak of the war, Robert's brothers also enlisted in the service, those who were unable to qualify, went work in the defense industry. Since Robert was stationed in Oregon, and the youngest member of the family in the service, the rest of the family moved to Oregon especially so his mother could be closer to him. Everyone in the family who could worked in the shipyards and the younger members of the family attended school in Portland.

With the 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division being scheduled to be shipped out, Robert's fiancée in New Mexico was preparing to travel to Oregon so they could be married. Instead she received word that he had been killed. After exchanging her wedding dress for a black dress she came to Oregon for Robert's funeral.

Research has yielded few details of the accident. The family was told that Robert and a lieutenant were picking up a guard detail in the foothills of the Coast Range on October 22. It was raining and the road was muddy and slick. When the truck he was driving slid off the road into a ravine. Robert was killed instantly, the lieutenant broke his leg. For a time the family corresponded with the lieutenant, but when the 70<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was shipped overseas, they lost touch.

In 1943 the family was unable to supply a grave marker, and they didn't know the military would provide one, so for 41 years SSgt. Robert Jesse Oldham's grave remained unmarked.

Today, Robert is survived by two brothers, two sisters. Through Tom Oldham they have expressed their appreciation and gratitude to everyone who have helped in the project to mark SSgt. Oldham's grave.

### BCGS 2005 Membership Renewals (since last newsletter)

Cecilia Anderson	opry@comcast.net
Richard Cobb	rcobb@peak.org
Pat Coolican	coolcanp@peak.org
Suzanne Doerge	No e-mail
Ted & LaRea Gump	tedg@proaxis.com
Mary Hardenbrook	hardeme@exchangenet.net
Virginia Hoeye	No e-mail
Ardeth Jones	aejones@proaxis.com
Dave Kribs & Charlene Talbot	cdkribs@pioneer.net
Gene Kelsey	n7eif@peak.org
Gene Newcomb	newcombg@cmug.com
Tonya Rawie	Tonyamra@aol.com
Damaris Reynolds	damarisreynolds@webtv.com
Lee Rudisill	rudy@proaxis.com

### BCGS Membership New Addresses

Suzanne Doerge  
4731 SW Birdsong Dr.  
Corvallis, OR 97333

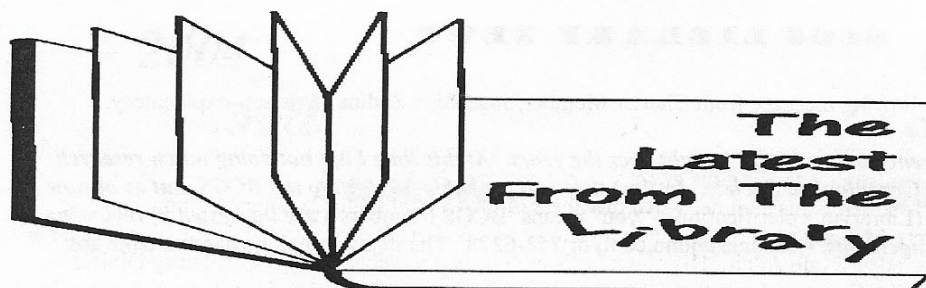
Nelda Kingsbury  
277 NE Conifer Blvd., Unit 145  
Corvallis, OR 97330

### QUERIES

*By Lee Gentemann and Janice Barclay*

*We did not receive any new queries this month.*





*Ken Bielman, Librarian*

Number	Category	Author	Title
2262	CD	FTM	Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, Vols 1-39. CD #213
2263	RW/VF	Hulse	Revolutionary Pensioners, Abstract of Pensioner's List of 1913. Yellow Pamphlet. Irene Harding Collection
2264	RW	Lu & Neuman	Revolutionary War Period, Vol 1, Bible, Family Marriage Records. Tan paperback. Irene Harding Collection
2265	CAN-ONT	Gov't	Ontario Historic Sites, Museums, Galleries and Plaques. Tan paperback. Irene Harding Collection
2266	CAN-ONT	Mika	Prince Edward County Heritage. Black paperback. Irene Harding Collection
2267	CAN-ONT	Cooper	Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Counties. Tan paperback. Irene Harding Collection
2268	TN	McGraw, et al	Between The Rivers, The Catholic Heritage of West Tennessee. Dk Blue hardback. Gift of Betty Swan
2269	CAN-ONT	Can Gov't	Historic Ontario. Tan paperback. Irene Harding Collection
2270	CAN-ONT	Can Gov't	Historic Sketches of Ontario. Tan paperback. Irene Harding Collection
2271	OR	GFO	Donation Land Claims, Genealogical Material in, Vol 1. Green paperback Irene Harding Collection
2272	OR	Haskin	Douglas County, 1860 Census. Yellow paperback.
2273	RW/VF	Nat'l Archives	Revolutionary War Pension Application Files. Red and white paperback
2274	RW/VF	Nat'l Archives	Service Records of Soldiers Serving in the Revolutionary War. Red & White paperback
2275	OR	Salazar	Lincoln County, Pioneer History of, Vol III. White paperback. Gift of Ken Bielman
2276	OH	Ohio Gen Soc	Marriages Through 1920. Navy hardback
2277	OH	Ohio Gen Soc	Marriages 1821-1830, Vol 1
2278	OH	Ohio Gen Soc	Marriages 1821-1830, Vol 2
2279	OR	Lacy	Jackson County Marriages, 1853-1877. White notebook
2280	OR	GFO	Jackson County Census, 1860 & 1870. Green notebook; two copies. Irene Harding Collection

### **Benton County Historical Museum Art Exhibition**

The Benton County Historical Museum presents contemporary art exhibits in the Moreland Auditorium Gallery on the second floor of the museum. The Museum is located in Philomath, Oregon, six miles west of Corvallis on Highway 20/34, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is free.

**November 5, 2004 - December 31, 2004**

**Shep Levine Retrospective**

Oregon State University Professor Emeritus Shep Levine has been painting for five decades. The exhibit looks back at the artist's prolific career.

*If only people came with pull down menus and on-line help!*



## BCGS LIBRARY NEWS

The BCGS library has received the following message from Charter Member, Josephine Zadina. It is self-explanatory.

*"I do have on hand some good reference books I have bought over the years. At this time I am not doing much research and I would like to loan them to the Genealogical Society. In time they will probably be a gift to the BCGS, but as of now I would just like to loan them. If you (Librarian's clarification---"you" means 'BCGS Members') are interested in reviewing these, email or call me to make arrangements. (jozadina@juno.com) or 752-6278. The items Josephine has available are:*

MARYLAND—Cecil County, published by Cecil County Historical Society

NEW JERSEY—Index to Militia Census in 1793.

ILLINOIS—History of Edgar County, 1879

OHIO—History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County in 1882

MISSOURI—History and Biographics of Adair, Sullivan, Putnam and Schuyler Counties in 1888

MISSOURI—1850 Census of Putnam County and Dodge County

MISSOURI—1910 Census of Putnam County

1920 Census of Putnam County *Note: these last two are very large, and must be used at the BCGS library.*

MISSOURI—Putnam County marriage records, 1850-1879

MISSOURI—Putnam County estate records, 1845-1909

History of the Van Sickle Family

### *The Gosney Family in America*

The Gosney and collateral families have and still do live in Oregon and surrounding states. These families were some of the pioneers in the settlement of this land. The only book ever written on this family was published over 60 years ago, and was limited in scope. This new book provides a valuable reference for the many family researchers in your area who are looking for their roots. This book covers Gosneys and collateral family lines for over 300 years of American History.

Some collateral family names are Adams, Allen, Allender, Anderson, Aulick, Baker, Barton, Belk, Bills, Bowers, Brann, Bradford, Bray, Bryan, Buckner, Byrd, Caldwell, Chapman, Clanton, Cox, Crow, Daniel, Davis, Dawson, Deatherage, Derringer, Dudley, Dunaway, Fisk, Flood, Foster, Garrett, Griffin, Hackamack, Hall, Harrison, Helm, Hopkins, Jones, Lummis/Loomis, Maddox, Melton, Merricks, Mullins, Mustain, Price, Prichard, Pruitt, Randall, Ritz, Sasnett, Shelton, Simpson, Smith, Strode, Tarvin, Thornton, Waibel, Ward, West, Yancey, Yeatts, Yelton, and many, many more.

Due to limited printing, they are taking pre-publication orders. The cost, which includes shipping and handling, is \$150.00 prior to October 31, 2004 and \$175.00 (regular price) after November 1, 2004.

If BCGS members wish to contribute toward the purchase of this book, there will be a sign up sheet posted in the BCGS Library, or mail in your interest indicating how much you would be willing to donate. If the Society receives 50% of the cost from donations, the Book Committee will purchase this book. A copy of the more detailed letter we received will be posted in the BCGS Library.

### **Oregon Archives Week is October 9-16, 2004**

Oregon Historical Society Research Library Staff will be available for advice on the preservation of archival materials **Tuesday and Wednesday, October 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Society's Miller Pavilion (1200 SW Park Ave., Portland). Archivists will offer advice on identifying and preserving archival treasures, such as books, letters, diaries, manuscripts, business records, digital images, photographs and scrapbooks. Samples of many kinds of archival storage materials will be on display, and a variety of handouts will be available. Individuals, families, organizations and businesses are invited to attend.

**Research Library Open House** A Research Library Open House takes place from **10 a.m. - noon both days**, with staff available to explain the library systems and show examples of the vast collections in the Oregon Historical Society Research Library. Collections include over 2.5 million photographs, 25,000 maps and 35,000 books.

For more information, call (503) 222-1741.

### **Seeking Help**

Our newsletter editor is looking for people to write or submit genealogy related articles or ideas for our newsletter. If you are interested, please e-mail Teri at: [mmteri@aol.com](mailto:mmteri@aol.com) and be sure to indicate BCGS in the subject line of your e-mail message. This does not need to be an on-going column, just something here and there would be helpful.

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**2004**

*Fall*

*Seminar*

**Saturday**

**October 30**

**PGE Auditorium**

**3700 SE 17th Ave., Portland, OR**

**GFO presents Mary E. V. Hill, MLS, CLS, AG**

**Come spend the day with other genealogists learning from Mary. Registration starts at 8 AM; Mary starts at 9 AM.**

**Her presentation will cover:**

- **Social Reasons for Migrations**
- **Research Logs, Calendars & To-Do Lists**
- **Cemetery Records**
- **Neighborhood Reconstruction**

**Lunch is at noon. We'll be done by 4 PM**

**Register now for the seminar and lunch and save yourself some money.**

**Cost of seminar is \$29 if register by Oct. 15, \$34 after that. They will provide lunch for \$ extra. Flyer with registration form is posted in the BCGS Library.**

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Renewing your membership allows continuation to participate in Society activities, which includes the use of the Genealogy Library which has over 2200 volumes of various books, periodicals and CD's; sharing in the Society's activities (potlucks, Christmas buffet and craft auction, used book and periodicals sale); receiving the monthly newsletter; field trips, and the research assistance and sharing of information of other members. To continue receiving the newsletter, dues must be paid by January 31, 2005.



Board Meetings are usually two Mondays before the second Saturday [our regular meeting time]. Dates of the upcoming Board meetings are:

1 November for the 13 November meeting. Cookies—Teri Greene  
29 November for the 11 December meeting. Cookies—Gene Newcomb  
27 December for the 8 January meeting. Cookies—Bill Gleaves

### Membership Information

President	Danell Aukerman danellauk@comcast.net	745-2003
1st Vice Pres	Bill Gleaves gleavew@peak.org	738-8189
2nd Vice Pres	Margaret Hays	757-8633
Secretary	Leila Crawford leila@peak.org	929-5935
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb newcombg@cmug.com	929-5715
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 rootsfinder@pioneer.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, 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](mailto: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!**