

# Benton County Genealogical Society



From President George

Hello, I hope all is well with you and family as we progress into the fall season.

I hope to see you at our November 12th Meeting with guest speaker Capt. Mark Stevens (Civil War Soldiers)

Sincerely, George



## NEWSLETTER

Philomath, Oregon  
founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon

### Volume 41 No.3: November 2022

<https://www.bcgs-oregon.org>

## The Civil War Soldier

A FREE Program  
Presented by Captain Mark Stevens

Captain Stevens from the Sons of Union Veterans, SVR, Northwest Civil War Council is a life-long history student, Civil War reenactor and living historian since 1996. He moved through the ranks from Private to Captain, Infantry, Artillery, Staff and Engineers and has served in multiple states including the 116<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry, 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Irish Brigade, the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, and the 4<sup>th</sup> California Infantry in Oregon at Fort Hoskins, Fort Yamhill and Siletz.



**Saturday Nov. 12, 2022 – 11am to noon**

**Benton County Historical Museum  
1101 Main St., Philomath  
Moreland Gallery, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

Sponsored by  
Benton County  
Genealogical Society  
[www.bcgs-oregon.org](http://www.bcgs-oregon.org)



This is the first program we have had since 2020!

Captain Stevens was originally slated in 2020 to tell us about the life of soldiers in the Civil War and the work the Sons of Union Veterans does. We're looking forward to hearing Captain Stevens speak! See you there.

The Sons of Union Veterans has a website with newsletters that you will find interesting, too.

<https://www.suvpnw.org/newsletter>

# Our Home in Oregon

by Lee Rudisill

The August day we arrived in Oregon was warm. We spent the night in the Orchard Motel on South Third. The next morning we looked at a few apartments which were so run down we couldn't imagine living in them. Besides they were only available until the college school year started, which would be the middle of September. There were no apartments available for the school year.

We **talked** it over and decided to buy a lot and build a house with our savings of \$1,200.00 and the \$99.00 a month the Government allotted Ernest for school. The purpose of us moving to Corvallis was so that Ernest could go to college – which was Oregon State College then. At that time the Government paid a veteran for tuition and all of his school books and supplies.

Then in August, 1947, one acre including a drilled well was sold to Ernest. H. Rudisill and his wife, Lee, for \$750.00. And here the story of our first purchased land and the building of our home and family begins.

The realtor we went to took us direct to this property, and we liked what we saw, even though it was only an acre of plowed ground with a well on it.

We pitched our tent that day and moved in. The tent was not tall enough to stand upright in, but it would keep us dry. We put newspapers and cardboard on the ground and made our bed on that.

Our first purchases were a pump for the well and for the electricity to be connected. Ernest had borrowed a set of carpenter books from his dad, and he studied and began to build our house.

We dug and poured the cement for the foundation all by hand. And when I say by hand, that means no electric mixer. Ernest mixed cement in a tub and put it in a bucket and carried it to the foundation. The foundation was sixteen feet by thirty feet.

At the same time the military base called Camp Adair was nearly torn down and the used lumber was for sale. We built our house of this lumber using many of the boards, such as the 2x6's, the length they came. This gave us long overhangs on the roof instead of the short ones that were being built at this time.

That month the weather was hot in the daytime, freezing some nights, and of course, it rained. We dug trenches around our tent to keep our bed from getting wet.

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By the time college classes began we had not built to the point where we could move in, so Ernest studied sitting in the car. I made his lunches from small cans of meat that could be used up the same day they were opened.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis, the people we bought our land from, let us shower at their house. They also gave us a little wood heating stove.

On September 30, a month to the day, we moved in. The sub-floor was partially laid but none of it was nailed down. We had our hot plate to cook on, bought a new spool bed, someone gave us a long church pew, and the table was a wooden crate that a range had been shipped in, with a piece of formica covered plywood for the top. We had found the plywood at the dump.

We had also found a little commode at the dump that was in good condition except for the finish.

Orange crates, apple boxes, and nail kegs made up the remainder of our furniture and cupboards.

I put the white Priscilla curtains I had packed away at the windows.

We had no family or friends here to give us advise or encouragement.

We were both in our early twenties with lots of love and determination, and we were determined to make this little house our home.



Our home in Corvallis, Or.

This wonderful story is part of Lee's biography. After I read this story, I asked Lee if I could put it in the newsletter. I'm so glad she agreed to it because I think it's full of lessons: such as doing with what you have, being creative, relying on yourself but being grateful when others help you.

**As Lee wrote - have lots of love and determination.**

Lee also searched the list of people who owned the property on which their house was built. The first owners were George W. Bethers and wife Keziah (Newton), who recorded their claim of 600 + acres on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 1865. Bethers and family came to Oregon in late 1840 and settled near present-Philomath. He was significant in bringing the United Brethren Church to the Marys River Settlement. Their arrival eventually led to the Philomath College (now the Philomath Museum.)

**Online--More information: Religion in the West-The United Brethren Missionary Train to Oregon**

## “How to Date Postcards”

The several URL's below will give you very detailed information and show post card examples.

The Webfooters Post Card Club is my personal favorite for content and ease of use.

[http://www.thewebfooters.com/html/postcard\\_dating.html](http://www.thewebfooters.com/html/postcard_dating.html)

Fort Lewis postcard dating

[https://www.fortlewis.edu/finding\\_aids/images/M194/PostcardDating.htm](https://www.fortlewis.edu/finding_aids/images/M194/PostcardDating.htm)

“Smithsonian Postcard History”

<https://siarchives.si.edu/history/featured-topics/postcard/dating-postcards>

All the Postcard Dating web sites I found had mostly the same basic information. You may need to copy/paste the URLs into your browser to bring up the web site.

### Post Card Eras

- Pioneer Era ----- 1893 -1898
- Private Mailing Card Era ---- 1898 -1901
- Real Photo Post Cards ----- 1900 -1995
- Undivided Back Era ----- 1901- 1907
- Early Divided Back Era----- 1907-1914
- White Border Era----- 1915- 1930
- Linen Era ----- 1930-1945
- Photochrome Era ----- 1939- present



See Postal rates for stamps  
at Webfooters web site.

### **AZO Stamp Box:**

Post cards produced on AZO paper had AZO stamp boxes on the back. The style of these boxes varied over time.

**1904- 1918** Four triangles, one in each corner, pointing up

**1918-1930** Two Triangles pointing ‘up’ and two triangles ‘down’

**1927-1940** Squares in each of the four corners.



By Linda Olsen

## More about Linda's great Uncle Bill Coon from the last newsletter

In the October 2022 newsletter, Linda Olsen wrote an interesting story about the Hall family, her great uncle **Bill Coon** and the Auto Camp Store. Here's more of the story.

### From the October 2022 newsletter

My great Uncle Bill Coon accomplished a lot in his short lifetime: **Arid William "Bill" Coon** operated the Auto Park grocery in Corvallis about 1925 when he was barely 20 yrs. Then he operated two Hamburger Inns near OAC, (OSU) close to 12th St. Corvallis. He married Darline Hall in 1935, moved to Portland and started a successful career first managing a new Safeway store and then moving to Salem and operating "The Top Hat" restaurant.

### From the Corvallis Gazette-Times, Corvallis, Oregon 17 Jul 1925 page 4

#### "Auto Camp Store Has Rushing Tourist Trade"

One of the busiest places in Corvallis, at this time of year, is the little store by the city auto park, which is known as the Auto Park Store, and is owned and operated by A. W. Coon. It is a small place but they do a rushing business catering to townspeople as well as tourists and campers from early morning until close to midnight.

The tourist or camper can be supplied with about everything he needs in the eating line, for the store carries a full line of groceries, fruit, bread and pastry, and tobacco. To the right of this store is a booth which supplies the thirsty with all kinds of soft drinks.

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In 1929 Bill sold the Auto Camp Store and the new owner changed the name to Wa-Wona Court Store.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Wa-Wona Court, which later became the Patio Motel.

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## The Auto Park Story Continued . . . . .

“The Story of the Cabins at Corvallis’s Auto Park” article in the September 2020 BCGS Newsletter by Sue Van Laere really caught my attention. It was always my assumption that the Auto Park Grocery was built just prior to the cabins, but there’s more to this story.

The Auto Park Grocery was part of the Auto Park tourist and stop-over camping place for travelers and part of my mother’s early history. My mother worked at the lunch counter in the Auto Park Grocery at 15 years of age in the summer of 1924. Bill Coon, age 20 and the owner, was her uncle although she thought of him more like a big brother. Bill taught her how to make change and wait on customers. Working with the public came naturally to my mother’s outgoing nature. She loved talking with people and wasn’t shy, just inexperienced.

One day a customer came in and asked for a “pie a la mode.” Surprised, my mother replied, “A pile of what?” She had never heard of a “pie a la mode.” The young man was good natured and explained what he wanted. My mother told that story over and over and it always got a good laugh. The experience she had working for her uncle in the Auto Park Grocery and subsequently the Hamburger Inn at 12th and Jefferson Street in Corvallis that Bill also owned, helped her develop self-confidence and self-reliance and prepared her for other jobs she had in the Corvallis area.

Meeting my father for the first time was the other unique part of my mother’s early history with the Auto Park Grocery. Mom’s 7th grade teacher happened to be my Dad’s sister. When my Dad’s sister happened to stop by the Auto Park Grocery with my future father, they all got acquainted. I’ll never know if Dad’s sister stopped by the Auto Park Grocery on purpose with her brother or whether it was just destiny that they met. Dad remembered he was smitten from that time on but painfully shy at 17 years. I can guess that good-looking fellow made other trips to the Auto Park Grocery that summer to meet that cute girl behind the lunch counter.

**This story from Linda Olsen was in the October 2020 newsletter. We thought this fit perfectly and it’s a good laugh, too.**

### **Thank you 1950 Census!**

I had been looking for my name in my hometown newspaper and there I was! I wanted to know when we moved back from California to Nebraska and now I know.

I have three memories of that time: halfway to Nebraska we stopped at a park so Mom could change my brother’s diaper (cloth of course!), how very cold and gray it was, and how different from sunny California.

When I joined kindergarten, being a shy kid, I probably didn’t speak to anyone for a while, but I did like learning. I just kept it to myself! By Sue Van Laere

February 16, 1950, The Dawson County Herald

### **PERSHING**

#### **Kindergarten—**

We finished our readiness work-books, “Before We Read.”

In writing we are working on our names and the letters a through d.

Joanne Tedrow’s mother visited us last Tuesday.

Susan Winkler joined our group this week. She comes to us from Chico, California.

# Ideas please!

I would be so happy if you would give me some ideas for the newsletter. It can be the littlest idea: something you've learned that you'd like to share, a photo of an ancestor with a couple of sentences about that photo, even ask if someone can help with a brick wall you've run into.

Anything you can share or ask about helps everybody be a better genealogist!

My e-mail: [vanlaere@proaxis.com](mailto:vanlaere@proaxis.com)

Thanks!



## Open Library Changes

**Our Library will be open to members and the public after our monthly meetings. (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month)**

**If you would like to use the Library during the month, contact Lois ([loiscourtney@cmug.com](mailto:loiscourtney@cmug.com) or cell 541-760-0405.**

**Reminder: our website has the complete inventory of our wonderful Library.**

**(<http://www.bcgsoregon.org/library/library-shelf-list> )**

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Appointed Positions

Membership: OPEN

Librarian: Lyza Wilson

Programs: OPEN

Historian: OPEN

Photographer: OPEN

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Refreshments: Pegge Gee

Host: Kathryn Moss

Research: Lois Courtney

Book Sales: Maridee Symons

Website: George Davidson

Facebook: OPEN

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