



Corvallis, Oregon

FOUNDED in 1971

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CORVALLIS OR 97339

PRESIDENT: DANIEL FROEHLICH

Mid - Valley Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: ED STRATTON

TODAYS PROGRAM

Today's program is a field trip to the Rudisill Rock Museum on SW 49th Street in Corvallis. The library will close at the end of the Business Meeting.

MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

Our librarian, Wendy James has a listing of Nine books that are missing from the library. Some of these books have been out since 1988. Most of them were checked out within the last year. When your Editor checked the names, they are all current members except two. One of these is not recognizable.

Check your stacks of books and see if you have any of these and get them back to the library, before the librarian calls you to remind you that you have overdue books out. If you have delinquent books you lose your library privileges, until your record is cleared. Check your By-Laws.

1. Cemetery Survey - Oakridge and Powell #54
2. Connecticut Nutmeg Vol VIII #4
3. Early Pennsylvania Births #290
4. Handibook #187
5. Healp (spelled correctly) is Available #286
6. How to Book for Genealogists #363
7. Pioneer Stories of Linn County Vol 1 #248
8. The Source #279
9. Surname Index to 65 Volumes of Colonial and Revolutionary Pedigrees. #130

MORE SHARING

Pat Coolican is willing to share the following NY items.

Surname index list just received from Albany NY Genealogical Society of 1000 names being researched in NY plus Names/addresses of over 350 submitters.

Quarterly newsletter from Twin Tiers Genealogical Society. This covers Chemung, Steuben, Schuyler and Tompkins Counties NY.

Quotable Quotes

"The cheapest way to have your family tree traced is to run for public office."

*Courtesy Jack Campbell's
Insta-Print, Good Impression*

QUERIES

Mabelle Martching is looking for the following.

TRIP ACROSS THE PLAINS IN 1864.

Copy of day to day diary kept by George Edwin Bushnell on his trip across the plains, from Kirksville, Missouri, to California in 1864. This diary was sent to Alice B. Forrester by Helen Feary Wayte, great grand-daughter of George Edwin Bushnell.



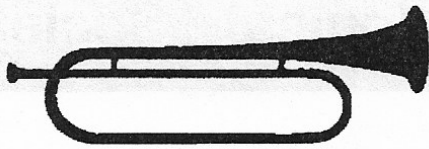
BIRTH CERTIFICATE

If you will remember a few months back, I asked if anyone knew of the owner of a birth certificate, for Hilda Graves, that was left in a copy machine at Hendersons.

The second week of March Betty Wilson called to say that she had done some checking and the birth certificate belonged to a friend of hers, one Hilda White.

A trip to Hendersons to verify that it was still there and available, and it is now back in its owners hands.

Thank you all concerned, especially the folks at Hendersons that care about people and their property.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

On Friday April 24th and Saturday April 25th the annual History Makers Revue will be held at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Corvallis at 8:00 pm. Master of Ceremonies will be Gary Eubank.

Friday night will be Shirley Byrne, Caroline Curtis & Fred Childs, Sheila Daniels, Oregon Dance, Ramblin' Rex, David Storrs and Chris Wolf.

Saturday will be Caroline Curtis & Fred Childs, Fat Chance, Jeff Hino & Dave Plaehn, Ladies with Hats, Luckiamute River String Band, Pacific Tap Dance Company and Diane Trapp & the Tcha Teemanwi Dancers.

Refreshments will be available and door prizes will be given. Vintage dress is encouraged.

Tickets are \$10.00 at the door or \$8.00 in advance. They are available at Rice's Pharmacy, Albright & Raw, or the Benton County Historical Society.

On April 25th, the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society will sponsor Dr. George K. Schweitzer of Knoxville Tn, who will speak on Tennessee Genealogy Research, the War of 1812, and Tracing Ancestors Across the Atlantic. This will be at Mill Creek Inn, 3095 Ryan Dr., SE, Salem (I-5 Mission St exit off Hawthorne). The cost is \$20.00 if pre-registered by April 11th plus \$5.00 if you desire lunch (must be pre-paid with registration). It will be \$25.00 for late registration or at the door.

Send to
Registration, WVGS
P.O. Box 2083
Salem OR 97308

Saturday May 16th The Genealogical Forum of Oregon is hosting its annual Family History Fair and Library Open House from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Neighbors of Woodcraft Building in Portland

Last year we went and sold some of our Cemetery Books at this gathering. There will be lots of vendors selling everything imaginable for genealogy. There will be a lot of information available on every genealogical subject and a lot of organizations available to help you.

The Neighbor's of Woodcraft Building is at 1410 SW Morrison, Portland, Oregon.

The Oregon Genealogical Council of Oregon (OGC) will present its 1992 Conference "Bridges", in Springfield, Oregon, August 14 thru 16. This will be at the Red Lion Inn, in Springfield.

Through July 15th the cost is \$90.00. This includes four general sessions, sixteen classes and five meals. After the 16th of July the cost is \$100.00.

For more information and registration form contact: Genealogical Council of Oregon, PL Box 15169, Portland, OR 97215.

ODDS AND ENDS

The Library is open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 pm. Librarians are on hand to help you with your questions. You may return books on Tuesday, but no books may be checked out.

Remember our number at the OSU thriftshop is 492.

Don't forget to bring in your Flav-R-Pak and Santiam labels. There is a plastic box in the library to store them in.

If you don't already belong to the Benton County Historical Society, why not consider joining? Contact a board member to find out what it is about.

CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP

Canadian Interest Group, for those searching for their roots in Canada. This group meets Tuesday, April 21, 1992, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at the Albany Public Library. If you have a specific area of Canada you are interested in, please let me know so we can have books and printed materials there for you to look at. We have resources available for Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and some Quebec, plus Canada in general.

Car pooling can be arranged. Call Pat Rawlinson, 752-2243.



BUSHROD WILSON

Last month, in the newsletter, Damaris Reynolds was talking about a man that was a great help to her in New Hampshire. His name was Ken Stevens and that he needed information on Bushrod Wilson.

She found the following article and shares it with us now. If you can help her with any other information on him please let her know.

"In the August 1970 issue of "American Heritage" there is an article about a character some of the older among our members might remember hearing about, "Typhoid Mary". There really was a Typhoid Mary, a cook, who spread typhoid wherever she worked. The idea of a disease spread by individuals who were not ill themselves was a novel idea in the early part of this century. Guess who helped to prove this is possible and that Mary was responsible for many deaths? Dr. Robert Wilson, son of Corvallis' own Bushrod Wilson! Mary, incidentally, was finally confined to a New York City hospital situated on an island in the East River from 1915 until she died in 1938."

This installment of the Charter Members, was done in the last week of January 1992, just before Harriet's death on the 2nd of February.

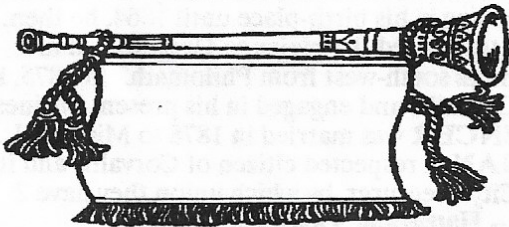
by Lee Rudisill

HARRIET MOORE

Tuesday afternoon Edna Wiese and I went to the Mennonite home in Albany to visit Harriet Moore. She was sitting in her chair and invited us in when we introduced ourselves. It was hard for her to talk as she said her mouth was sore, but she told us a little of how she got started in Genealogy research.

Harriet said she had always been interested, and after her husband had earned his masters degree at Iowa State his first assignment was in New York City. She also went to apply for a job and while waiting for an interview she looked at a book which had biographical data about Ebenezer Cunningham, a judge in Arizona. This was a family name and she wrote to him asking about his relationship to her and he affirmed that relationship and told her to write to his sister in Alabama which she did and that is how she got started.

Some of her family originally came from Scotland. One of her family names was Ferguson which belonged to a Scottish Clan. Harriet has been interested in Oregon and Benton county history and did a cemetery record book for the D.A.R. Also in the 1960's, in a little office under the stairs at Gill Coliseum, she started the OSU Archives.



BENTON COUNTY LIBRARY RESOURCES

Mabelle Martching did some research on Benton County, at the new Archives in Salem, and came up with a list of resources that are available to us. The information will be given in two parts. The first this month and the second part next month.

Attachment Record, 1861 - 1896
Birth Record: Decree for Registration, 1957 - 1962
Bond Record, 1881 - 1929
Census Record, 1856, 1858, 1865
Circuit Court Case Files, 1852 - 1936
Circuit Court Case File: Receivership Record, 1896
Circuit Court Fee Book, 1/1851 - 3/1902
Circuit Court Index, 1851 - 1914 : 1908 - 1926
Circuit Court Journal, 1849 - 1872
Circuit Court Register, 1864 - 1907 : 1915 - 1934
County Court Order Book, 1871 - 1879 : 1921 - 11/1921
Court Exhibits: Oregon Pacific Railway, Bank of Hamilton Job & Co. 1879 - 1893
Delinquent Tax List, 1856 - 1864
Docket; Circuit Court, 1864 - 1868 : 1889 - 1911
Dower: Admeasurement of, 1865 - 1879

BEGINNING GENEALOGY SEMINAR

The beginners seminar, on April 4th, was an unqualified success. There were 23 students that finally came to the class. Five called on Friday saying that they wouldn't make it but one finally did. Two others didn't show up. Those that didn't make it are the first on the list for the next class.

According to all of the statements that were heard during and after the class, everyone that attended was very happy with the results. The only discouraging word was that it was only three hours and should have been three days long.

The instructors did an excellent job considering all of the information that needed to be passed to the students and the minimum of time to do the teaching. A kitchen timer was used by the instructors to make sure that they didn't get carried away in their exuberance and spend part of the other instructor's time.

Lee Rudisill was hostess, greeting the guests and making sure that they knew what was going on.

Ed Stratton gave the introduction and presented each of the instructors, and introduced each as they took their turn at the rostrum.

Becky Kiger started the proceedings by explaining the process of getting started. Next Pat Coolican gave her part on organizing the records when you have collected them. Jean Grube gave the last session before lunch on what resources are available for the researcher to use.

During the lunch break, all of the instructors were available to the students to answer whatever questions that they had. There were a lot of conversations going on in various parts of the Annex.

The afternoon session started with Damaris Reynolds explaining where to get your information with locations and what each has available. Pat Coolican then talked about the Family History Center at the LDS.

Ed gave the students a final pep talk and the proceedings were dismissed. For a while there were several conversations going on, and a lot of questions were answered and then, slowly, the students began drifting away.

As we cleaned up and got ready to go home one thing was evident. We were happy with the product we had presented and were all ready to do it again.



**FAGAN: HISTORY OF BENTON COUNTY,
OREGON BIOGRAPHIES 1885**

SMITH, Green Berry -- few lives have been more full of adventure than that of the subject of this sketch, who was born in Grayson county, West Virginia, 10 September 1820, and is the son of George & Nancy (**HAMILTON**) **SMITH**. At the age of 16 years his parents removing to St. Joseph county, Indiana, he accompanied them thither, assisting in the cultivation of the farm until 1840, when he emigrated to Platt county, Missouri, and there remained until the spring of 1845. At this period, accompanied by his brother Alexander **SMITH**, (who died at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands in 1851) Mr. **SMITH** joined a train, composed of 66 wagons, at St. Joseph, Missouri, and under the command of Captain **TeVAULT**, commenced the difficult journey across the plains. After successive changes in the leaders of the party, that well known veteran, Stephen **MEED**, undertook to conduct them into the Willamette valley by the old Columbia route, but unfortunately, when at the place called Silver Lake, located west of the Blue Mountains, the guide found himself at fault, and declared himself to be absolutely lost, upon which the immigrants became so incensed that they affirmed that **MEEK** must hand, a determination which so alarmed him that he made his escape at dead of night, leaving his wife behind under care of the late Nat. **OLNEY**. It now forced itself upon their minds that the Columbia route lay to the northward, but such was their distress for lack of water that this knowledge availed them little. Scouring the desert to the east of the present Prineville for 5 days, they found none, therefore they turned to the northward and after one day and night's travel discovered that with which to slake their parched throats. Their supplies, too, had gone, thus their cattle were slain and their flesh eaten without salt or other comestibles. After traveling by day only, the vicinity of the waters of the Deschutes was reached and here the party met by Black **HARRIS**, a mountaineer, who had learned from Indians that there were immigrants lost in the country. **HARRIS** led them to the river, opposite what is now known as Tygh Valley, Wasco county, where water was had in abundance. It now became necessary to cross the Deschutes, but the Indians had given to understand that it was a difficult feat, either for man or beast. Undeterred, however, the wagons were unshipped from the wheels and tightly caulked; but yet another difficulty presented itself -- how was a guy rope to be conveyed to the opposite bank? Happily there was a young man in their midst whose courage was equal to the hazardous task. In him we find that worthy resident of Benton county, Prier **SCOTT**, who volunteered to swim the stream, an exploit he accomplished, and thus wagons and supplies were ferried over; the beasts were made to swim, and not a thing was lost. Not long after they arrived at The Dalles, where they obtained a supply of provisions from the Methodist Mission, then under charge of Rev. A. F. **WALLER**, and here, building a raft and shipping their wagons and goods upon it, they went with the current to the Upper Cascades, while the cattle were driven along the southern shore of the Columbia to the same point. Here Indians were hired to assist in swimming the beasts across the river, which being successfully accomplished, the route was again taken to the Lower Cascades, the line of travel being

that now traversed by the Northern Pacific Railroad, where they were assisted by men and boats from the Hudson Bay Company's fort at Vancouver, where they were furnished with clothing and provisions by Dr. **McLAUGHLIN**. Having wintered at the mouth of Washougal some fifteen miles above Fort Vancouver, in the month of March, 1846, Mr. **SMITH** and his brother came to Benton county and he took up his residence in the Luckiamute valley, about 12 miles north of Corvallis, and embarked in farming and stock-raising. His original claim of 640 acres he still owns. In 1862 he became domiciled in Corvallis, but at the end of 4 years removed to a farm to the south of the city, where after 16 years he returned in 1883, to Corvallis, of which he is not a most respected citizen. Mr. **SMITH** is now one of the most prosperous of Benton county's residents. He owns no less than 8000 acres of land located within her confines and that of the neighboring county of Polk; while he is considered to be a man of superior intelligence and marked individuality of character. He has been twice married, in the first instance in 1849, to Miss Eliza **HUGHARD**, a native of Missouri, who died 2 years after. By this union there is one son, Alexander; and secondly, in 1851, to Miss Mary **BAKER**, a native of Tennessee, by whom he has one son, John.

SPENCER, Jesse -- the well-known proprietor of "Spencer's Tonsorial Parlors and Bath Rooms," is a native of Missouri, born in Putnam county, 13 November 1846. Residing in his birth-place until 1864, he then, with his parents, crossed the plains to Oregon, and first settled 7 miles south-west from Philomath. In 1875, he came to Corvallis and engaged in his present business. Mr. **SPENCER** was married in 1878 to Miss Ida L. **McLAGAN**, a respected citizen of Corvallis and its present City Treasurer, by which union they have 2 children -- Hattie and Victor Cleveland.

STARR, Jeremiah -- Among the best known of the pioneers of Benton county is the subject of this sketch who was born in Hampshire county, Virginia, 21 September 1794. When but 6 years of age he was taken by his parents to Pike county, Ohio, but when he attained the age of 12 years, he accompanied them to Illinois, and subsequently to Iowa. Settling in Van Buren county our subject there resided until the spring of 1847 when he crossed the plains to Oregon, took up a donation claim in the Belknap Settlement, and has since resided thereupon. The exemplary life led by this venerable gentleman is one that the youth of the county would do well to have in remembrance. At the ripe age of fourscore years he is looked up to with reverence and none have aught to say but good of his actions throughout his long life.

STARR, Levy H. -- was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, 28 November 1845, and at three years of age crossed the plains with his parents to Oregon, arriving in Benton county in November 1848. Is a member of the mercantile firm of Starr, Wilhelm, & Hinton, of Monroe. Mr. **STARR** is married.