



# Mid - Valley Genealogical Society

PO BOX 1511  
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NEWSLETTER

VOL VII NO. 10  
DECEMBER 1992

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## 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 the third Tuesday of each month, 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.



## PAY YOUR DUES NOW

Your 1993 dues may be paid beginning in September. That means that your dues may be paid from now until the first of the year. The sooner you pay the dues the easier the Treasurer and Membership chair will be able to get their records up to date.

Remember that the dues are now \$6.00 for a single and \$9.00 for a family. This is the first cost increase in our 21 year history.

## MONTHLY SHARING

Each month we have a table to bring books or other artifacts to share with the other members, from the area we are specializing in. The items are used for that one day only, you take them home that night. Following is the listing for the ten months that we have meetings. If you have books or items to share, please bring them as shown below.

Jan	PA, OH
Feb	OR, WA, ID, MT
Mar	VA, WV
Apr	NC, KY, TN, and Germany
May	IL, MI, WI, Ireland and Scotland
Jun	IN, IA
Sep	NY, NJ, MD, DC
Oct	NH, VT, MA, ME
Nov	VT, RI, DE
Dec	Auction and Christmas Tea

## 1920 CENSUS

The new County Library will soon have the 1920 census and soundex. They are also purchasing the latest reference books. Support your local library, your taxes pay for it.

## POLK COUNTY

The Polk County Museum Association is planning a second volume of "Camp Adair Memories".

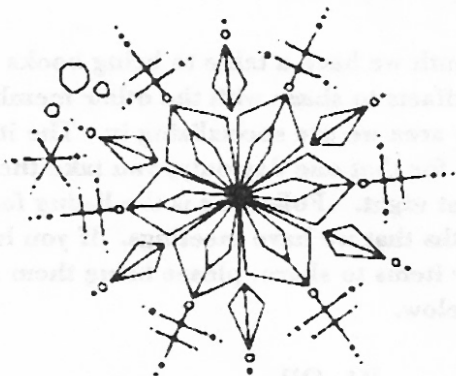
They would like to have any stories about how the introduction, construction, and presence of Camp Adair affected your life.

If this applies to you send your stories to:

Polk County Museum Association  
187 SW Court Street  
Dallas OR 97338  
Phone 838-2948 or 838-2544

## SHARE

Ed Eberhardt has a book on the John May family of Massachusetts in 1640. It contains much information about the May family until three generations ago. He is willing to lend this book to anyone who is interested, after January.



## DAR

The DAR State Regent, Ellen Benedict will be at the library on the 12th of January 1993. They will be there from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. The library will be open during that time for normal working and for those wishing to start their DAR lineage workup. There is no cost for this help, and if you intend to be there the entire time, bring a brown bag.

## FAMILY NEWSLETTER

If you have any ties with the Bilyeu (all spellings) line, there is a new family newsletter from Marysville Washington. If you are interested, the letter will be in the library.

## FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc. is planning for their annual Family History Fair on the 20th and 21st of March 1993. It will be held on the third floor in the Masonic Temple Grand Ballroom, 1119 SW Park, Portland OR. For more information and for information on exhibits, see Damaris Reynolds.

## LANE COUNTY CEMETERY

We have been receiving information from Gloria Aagaard about the Lancaster-Young Cemetery on Jager Lane, Junction City. This is on private land, and requires permission from the land owners to park or visit. They have had quite a restoration going on during the latter part of 1992.

The names there are Barcus, Boyd, Briles, Casteel, Cleek, Cook, Crow, Dennis, Dickenson, Dudley, Ellsworth, Ewers, Fawver, Foley, French, Geever, Golden, Goodlin, Howard, Hyland, Lemon, Meeker, Michael, Miller, Minton, Nelson, Richardson, Rose, Shaklee, Sittser, Summers, Ullery, Von Vrankin, Walker, Whittle, York and Young.

See your editor for more information.



## BOOKS

The new book list is from Jean Grube, Pat Coolican and Damaris Reynolds.

New books added to the MVGS Library -  
Nov/Dec 1992

Missouri Miscellany, Vol. 1, comp. by Mrs. Howard Woodruff

Missouri Miscellany, Vol. IX, comp. by Mrs. Howard Woodruff

Missouri Genealogical Records and Abstracts 1741-1839; by Sherida Kay Edelemon (we have first three volumes)

Gazetteer of Vermont Heritage, pub. by National Survey

Irish Genealogy; a Record Finder, ed. by Doual F. Begley

The Irish Roots Guide, by Tony McCarthy

British Research Syllabus, comp. by Helen Clagg

Tracing Your Ancestors In the Public Record Office (England), 4th ed. by Amanda Bevin & Andrea Duncan

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors in the Scottish Record Office, by Cecil Sinclair

General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland; Based on the Census of Ireland for the year 1851.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, by John Grenham.

Please make the following changes to your 1992 shelf list:

Clemens "Marriages Before 1699" moved from New England to U.S. section.

"Soldiers In King Phillip's War" moved from New England to Military.

"Granville County Marriages" should be moved from "NV" to "NC".

## FROM WENDY

from a recycling article in the GT.

"We may have arrived on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now."

## OREGON TRAIL CENTER

The following is from Sandy Ihrig. It was from the issue of Modern Maturity listed below.

"WESTWARD, HO! Today if you're moving West, you cruise smoothly and comfortably along an interstate highway-or better yet, hop a plane while a commercial van carries your furniture. Imagine you and your belongings jostling 2,000 miles in a 10-by-4-foot covered wagon. In the mid-1800s 350,000 spirited emigrants did just that along the Oregon Trail from Missouri through Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho and into Oregon. All those states will be staging celebrations throughout 1993 to mark the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Great Migration. You can follow the approximate route-including about 300 miles of discernible wagon ruts and 125 historic sites by car, foot, horse, even in reconstructed Conestoga wagons. Of special note is Oregon's National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill. For more on Oregon Trail jubilee events call 800-547-7842 in Oregon, 800-635-7820 in Idaho."

MM December 1992-January 1993

Sandy called last week to say that she had received the information, and it was worth the effort. Also, the phone number for The Oregon Trail Commission is 228-7245 in Portland.

## IDAHO PIONEER CERTIFICATE

If your ancestors came to our sister state between 4 July 1890 and 31 December 1900, contact the

Idaho Genealogy Society,  
4620 Overland Rd. #204  
Boise ID 83705

I wish to thank Janice Barclay for the information she researched on the First Murderer in Benton County.

Ed

## NIMROD O'KELLY, BENTON COUNTY'S FIRST MURDERER

In 1853, Archbishop Francis N. Blanchet of Oregon City sent a priest, Father James Croke, to southern Oregon to minister to the people there. On his way there, he visited the house of a Mr. Nimrod O'Kelly, who lived about fourteen miles south of Corvallis along what is now Highway 99W.

The following is an excerpt from a letter which Father Croke wrote to the Archbishop.

"I found old O'Kelly on his claim fourteen miles south of Marysville. As my horse was tired, and as it was approaching Sunday I thought it better to remain with him in order to have an opportunity of saying mass on Sunday. His house is a most miserable hovel and so small that I could scarcely find a corner to fix me up an altar--I succeeded, however, in arranging a few boards against the wall, and having spread upon them my altar clothes and ornaments celebrated the first Mass that was ever said in this part of the country. All the neighborhood are very bigoted and against the Catholics, and hold O'Kelly in abhorrence. He received the sacraments of confession and communion, and appears to be a very good old man. His wife and children are Protestants, but very well disposed towards the Catholic religion. His wife in fact, believes in it, and is reading Catholic books. I promised to spend some days there when returning in order to instruct her, and receive her into the church if properly disposed."

In addition to having the first Catholic mass in the area celebrated in his house, Nimrod O'Kelly also had the distinction of being the first convicted murderer in Benton County. In 1852, he was taken into custody by Sheriff Samuel Starr, of Starr's Point, for murdering a man by the name of Mahoney.



O'Kelly had taken a 640 acre donation land claim near the confluence of the Long Tom and Willamette Rivers. According to his "declaration", Mahoney attempted to "jump his claim" and in the altercation which followed, O'Kelly's gun, which he claimed to be carrying to scare crows from his grain, was discharged, killing Mahoney.

O'Kelly was tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged. The case was appealed and the sentence upheld but O'Kelly was never executed perhaps because there was popular sentiment against anyone who tried to infringe on land in an area where no one's claim was yet secure.

At any rate, O'Kelly was incarcerated in Benton County since there was no state penitentiary at the time. His upkeep became a real burden to a new and sparsely settled area, so in January, 1853, the Legislature appropriated six hundred and thirty dollars as relief to the county for his care. John Stewart was paid five dollars per week for boarding a guard for the prisoner and eight dollars for boarding Nimrod O'Kelly.

In the October 16 1942 Camp Adair Sentry, C. A. Blake was interviewed. Among the reminiscences recorded by his interviewer was almost certainly another chapter of the story of Nimrod O'Kelly as follows:

"Aunt Polly was really Mrs Mary Stuart. There wasn't any jail at the time, so the first murderer around here was put in her keeping. He killed a man for jumping his claim. The murderer was chained up in her back yard. But he wanted exercise, so Aunt Polly would unchain him and when he had enough, he would come back and she would chain him up again. Aunt Polly wasn't afraid. She had to fight Indians to get this far."

There is no known record of Nimrod O'Kelly's death so it is not known if he lived out his years in captivity.