

Mid - Valley Genealogical Society

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NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: ED STRATTON

MEETING CANCELLED

For those of you that weren't going to attend anyway, you didn't miss the January meeting. The meeting was cancelled due to the inclement weather (SNOW) that we had. The program with Margaret Ingram from Albany, will be rescheduled for April.

TODAYS MEETING

A discussion of the GT project will be given. We hope that this will reenergize our members to get on with the extraction program. There are over 560 entries in the database at this time. When the program was started last year, your editor stated that it was a 10 year project. It is hoped that this is all the time it takes.

Next month, your editor will put on a program about capturing a picture and converting it to a printed picture and saving it as a graphic file. If the creek don't rise or the bridge wash out, we'll be there.

GARAGE SALE

This is a repeat notice just to remind you to keep thinking about the garage sale we will share with Mabelle Martching, this spring. If you have anything that might be of interest to garage sale patrons, bring it to the March meeting, or call Damaris Reynolds at 753-1810, to arrange pickup. Everything that we can sell will add more to our book fund.

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

If your dues are not paid this month, this is your last newsletter. I said that last month, but since there was no meeting last month, it is extended one more month. Please get them paid so you don't miss out on any information. Your 1993 dues may be paid beginning in September of each year.

Remember that the dues are now \$6.00 for a single and \$9.00 for a family.

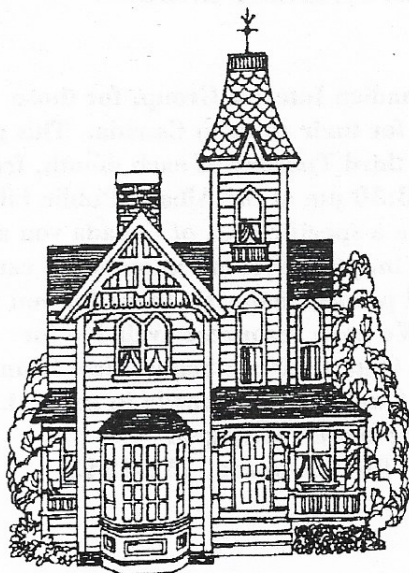
MONTHLY SHARING

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.

If we do not have your area of interest, please contact a board member and let's see if we can update the listing to satisfy your needs.

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	CT, RI, DE
Dec	Auction and Christmas Tea



BOOKS

Most of our new books to report since the first of the year are gifts. The majority from Damaris Reynolds

5 years of the Register (quarterly of the New England Historic Genealogical Society)
New Jersey Marriage Records
Southwest Virginia and the Valley
DAR Oregon membership list (Not exact title), given by Oregon DAR.
Guide to County Records on Microfilm, published by the Missouri State Archives
Directory of Local Historical, Museum and Genealogical Agencies in Missouri
1992-1993, published by State Historical Society of Missouri.
Inscriptions from the Old Cemetery of Rowley MA.

Purchased by the Society;

Set of microfiche of German Immigration Records. Half of price paid by member Florence Petzel.

Thank you for your participation.

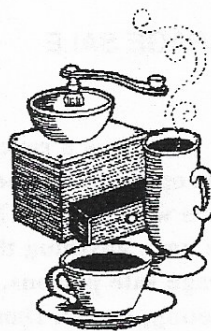
ANNEX ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Don Kabler, BCHS Treasurer and volunteer, got an electrician, Dick Butts, of Butts Electric in Corvallis, to check out the wiring in the Annex. Mr. Butts rewired three outlets, one in our library and one in each of the upstairs rooms, at a good price. We can now use our film and fiche readers.

Thank you to both of the volunteering men.

QUERIES

If anyone is searching for McDuffee (any spellings), contact Jean Grube, at 758-7618.



SNOB

SNOB is an acronym coined by Jim Cloutier, author and all round nice guy, of Eugene. It stands for Society of Native Oregon Born. To belong you must be born in Oregon or have lived here for 99 years.

When I mention this acronym I am also saying thank you Jim for such a descriptive term.

Betty Swan would like you to get your summaries in if you are a native b n Oregonian.

BEGINNERS CLASS

Last April we held a beginners class. It was very well received by all that attended.

We are planning to have another beginners class on April 17th.

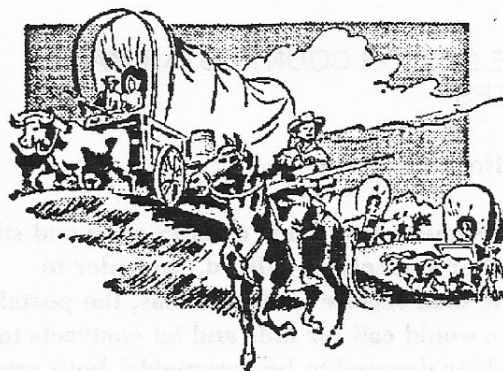
We are firming up details now, so if you would like to attend or have someone you are trying to start into genealogy, have them sign up for the class.

We will keep you informed about our progress.

NAME SUFFIX

BEWARE! In colonial times, the term "Junior" or "Jr" designated the younger of two men of the same surname in a list, perhaps an uncle and nephew, not necessarily a father and son. An even younger man, perhaps a distant relative, might be called the "3rd". Only very recently has the term implied a father and son relationship. A misunderstanding of this term can lead to errors in tracing a line.

From Mayflower Quarterly, Nov. 1985
by way of Damaris Reynolds.



THE OREGON TRAIL PROJECT

from OGS Newsletter 24:01 (1993) p4

The Oregon Trail Project is issuing special certificates to anyone whose ancestors came west via the Oregon Trail between the years of 1811 and 1911.

"This is a tribute to those hardy pioneers who came overland by wagon, handcart or foot along the Oregon Trail," said Jane Walls Golden, chairperson of the Oregon Trail Project.

"Entire families, with all their worldly possessions in town, left homes and loved ones to follow an inner voice that promised a better life 'out west'."

Recognizing descendants of Oregon Trail travelers commemorates the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the peak year of westerly migration, Golden explained.

"People began to head west in 1811 using the Old Platte Road," she said. "But the exodus was at its height in 1843 when about 300,000 pioneers journeyed west of the Missouri River to begin new lives. The Old Platte Road then became known as the Oregon Trail."

To qualify for an Oregon Trail certificate, Golden said applicants must prove direct descent from a person who traveled any part of the Oregon Trail between 1811 and 1911. To receive an application or more information, write to the Oregon Trail Project.

Oregon Trail Project
4620 Overland Rd. #206
Boise ID 83705.

The Oregon Trail Project of Idaho is a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, archiving and publishing data about the Oregon Trail.

SOME BENTON COUNTY STAR MAIL ROUTES

from Roland Crosier

Some areas of our country were and still are rather sparsely populated. In order to provide mail service to these areas, the postal service would call for bids and let contracts to the bidder deemed to be acceptable, both price wise and in dependability. All mail routes had numbers assigned to them in records. The numbers for contract carried routes were preceded by a star (asterisk) in the records and thus referred to as "Star Routes".

I am aware of three such Star routes which served portions of Benton County and feel sure that others existed.

The contract for what may possibly have been the first such route in Benton county was let to Isaac Staats and John Forrest in 1851. They were to carry the mails by horseback from Marysville, now Corvallis, twice a week. The route extended north through Tampico, crossed into Polk county along Berry creek, through Luckemute, now Airle, to Dallas the first day. The second day it proceeded north across Polk county and to Lafayette in Yamhill county, returning over the route to Dallas for another overnight stop. The third day it retraced its route to Marysville. The carrier spent his Sundays in Marysville.

A second Star route originated in Dallas, Polk county and ran south via Falls City, Bridgeport and Peedee in Polk county then Kings Valley and ended at Alsea, Benton county. It was route #44137. Contractor J. E. Grier. Date for this one was about 1882.

The third such star route extended from Philomath through Alsea, south and west over Lobster mountain into Lincoln county and down Lobster creek to Denzer and up Five Rivers through Fisher and ended at Paris on the headwaters of Five Rivers. This was carried three times a week as the route was retraced in the reverse the second day. The carrier on this route was David (Davy) Cathcart. I do not know what period of time this route was in existence. My family lived on the route for a three year period during the mid 1930's, however we were on the Lincoln county end of the route.

NOTE: During the mid to late 1940's your editor lived on this Star route and it was then Star route 3, Alsea. The operator was Cecil M. Hayden. He drove a purple Jeep station wagon when I was in High School. I used to ride with him sometimes. Rules were not enforced as strictly then.

I feel sure that there were other star routes serving portions of Benton County through the years but do not have any information on them. It is possible that there may still be some in existence however I have not seen any of the telltale boxes used for delivery and picking up the mail sacks along our roads for some time. I do know that there were two star routes operating from the Grand Ronde Post Office in Polk county as recently as 1982.

A BENTON COUNTY OUTHOUSE STORY

from Roland Crosier

This story was told on himself by the principal whose name will not be mentioned. To not reveal his identity he will be referred to as "Mr. X" in this story.

The time period was in the 1930's. The location was on a small farm near the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station west of Alsea in Benton County.

Mr. X, a young newlywed, rented the house and out-buildings on this farm as the first home for him and his bride. They soon found that the outhouse roof had leaks. He assured his bride that he could re-roof it and all would be well. She was duly impressed at his ability when the new roof was in place. As can be expected here in Oregon, it soon rained and her being impressed turned to dismay as the water literally poured through the new roof. In desperation he consulted his landlord. With one look the problem was discovered. He had put the shingles on from the roof peak down, thus they caught the water and channeled it through to the inside. With that lesson he learned to properly lay a roof. Needless to say, his bride was much happier with the redone roof on his second try.

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