



Mid-Valley Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME to the start of a New year. May we all find happiness, prosperity, and each one of those elusive ancestors.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-

Ed Stratton, MVGS President

Everything happens in it's own time. Sure everyone knows the truth of this statement. How many times do we just get tired of waiting for something to happen. I'm sure glad that I waited for the answer to one of my queries.

In May of 1989 I told you that I thought my paternal grandfather was on the Orphan Train, and that there were several letters sailing out into the great eastern part of out country. Success! Finally in December I received a letter from Mrs. Helen Steinman at the Childrens Aid Society in New York City.

My Grandfather was on an Orphan Train, and now instead of 27 years missing I only have 11 lost years. He came to them from an unknown orphanage within a month of his 11th birthday. He was then taken to Indiana and placed with a family in Forest Hill. This was about 12 miles from where my father was born.

So, my friends, remember that perseverance pays off. I had to wait seven months, but it was worth it.

NEW BOOKS ON THE SHELF:

- #385 CONCISE GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY compiled by Maurine & Glen Harris.
- #386 THEY CAME IN SHIPS by John P. Colletta, PH.D
- #387 VIDEO FAMILY HISTORY By Duane & Pat Strum
- #388 ANCESTRY'S RED BOOK American State, County, Town sources
- #389 SEMINAR TRANSCRIPT (Gen. Research) by Ronald A. Bremer

QUERIE

Looking to borrow issues of Pennsylvania area periodicals especially Mennonite - as Penn. Mennonite History. --Daniel FROEHLICH, 2155 NW Elder, Corvallis, phone 753-9077

THANKS to all who participated in the auction and raffle. The Board of Directors expressed their greatest and most heartfelt gratitude to Fern SHAFFER. Her contribution of the lovely hand woven coverlet for the drawing made it a success and it is much appreciated.

We are pleased with the income generated by these sales. The amount earned was: Auction \$230.75; Raffle \$ 225.00 - for a grand total of \$ 455.75. Isn't that impressive- and it couldn't have happened without the help and the special things you made and gave and the active bidding from each and every one. Thanks a million- we all deserve a star!

WINNERS of the drawings were: First prize: coverlet- winner, Glen GRAEBER; Second prize: santa - winner was Monine STEBBINS; Third prize: door decoration- winner, Valerie NICHOLS. Congratulations!

LOOKING AHEAD

Next meeting- February 10- the program will be a speaker from the Corvallis Public Library telling us about the plans for the library addition. This will also be a time that we can make known any ideas we have regarding the enlarged (we hope) genealogy section and to find ways that we can be involved.

To add a little more excitement & suspense- there will be DOOR PRIZES at the February meeting. Bring books and other things to share on: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

March meeting, on the 10th, we will be entertained and informed by Jane and Charles DODGE. Their topic will be England and about their recent trip there. For the research time, bring books to share on Virginia and West Virginia.

March 15, Thursday, will be a program given by Leland Metzler of HERITAGE QUEST. The location: Senior Center, 2601 NW Tyler. Time: starts at 6:30 p.m. Topics included in the presentation will be: Utilizing Census Schedules; Locating cousins & missing persons; Sources for finding pre-1910 vital statistics; and More. Since our Society is sponsoring this conference, it is hoped that all members will attend and lend their support. There is no fee.

April 14th will be another action packed, don't miss, information tour of the Oregon State University Library. Tour guides will be none other than our own Jean GRUBE and Damaris REYNOLDS.

OF INTEREST

Census Bicentennial: This year is the 200th Anniversary of the federal census, and another census year. The United States was the first country to start and continue a census every ten years. Great Britain didn't get started until 1821. An idea is-- after you complete the census forms and questionnaire, why not make a xerox copy of your return for your files before you send it back. You might even suggest to some of your relatives that they do the same. The 1990 census will not be made public until the year 2062. (From the Ohio Genealogical Society Newsletter.)

The Ukrainian Genealogical and Historical Society of Canada would appreciate the forwarding to them of all known Ukrainian surnames. They would like 100,000 by 1991, as it will be their 100th year in Canada. With the advent of glasnost, they are planning to petition Mr. Gorbachev to open up the now-closed Ukrainian records. If you have Ukrainian connections, send your family group sheets to: Ukrainian Genealogical & Historical Society of Canada-- 2021-17 Avenue S.W.-- Calgary, Alberta T2T 0G2 -- Canada. (from NEWS-MIX, MA)

DIXON, William P--this very worthy pioneer of Benton county was born in Worcester county, (now Wyoming) Maryland, 20 February 1811. Having resided on the homestead of his father until he attained the age of twenty-two years, at that epoch in his life our subject started out to meet the buffeting of the world and carve his way to independence. First emigrating to Dearborn county, Indiana, he located on a farm, which he left however, at the end of 6 years. for Clark county, Missouri, and there dwelt until the spring of 1845. At that time, with his wife and 2 children, Mr. DIXON started to cross the plains to Oregon in ox-teams, forming a portion of a large train bound to this then little known portion of the United States. The perils encountered and hardships endured need not be recounted in this place, the story has been told elsewhere and was much the same for each and all of those heroic men and women who first planted civilization in the far Northwest. It is sufficient to say that 6 months after first starting the lovely valley of the Willamette was reached, when Mr. DIXON came to what has since become Benton county, and took up a donation claim. This tract of land is that on which the northern portion of the city of Corvallis has since been located, the division into town lots having been made in 1851-52, and forty acres of which he deeded to the county for the purpose of founding the town of Marysville. In 1848 Mr. DIXON constructed a house near where the Willamette is crossed and at this point established the first ferry across that stream above Salem. The subject of our sketch is one of those men that bring honor upon a community. He has never aspired to office, although frequently urged by his fellow citizens to put himself in nomination. He has contented himself with doing good in other spheres of labor, and now enjoys a green old age, being respected by all. He has been twice married, in the first instance, in Indiana, to Miss Julia A. ROUND, who accompanied him to Oregon in 1845, and afterwards became the first white lady to reside in Corvallis. By this union there were 7 children, 4 of whom now survive, viz: James, Mary Ann (BARBER), Cyrus (the first white child born in Corvallis), and William. Married secondly, Mrs. Martha A. ELGIN, who died in 1883.

DODELE, Gustavus H--was born in Brussels, Belgium 27 March 1820. In 1855 he came to America and took up his residence in Rock Island county, Illinois, where he lived until 1868, when he crossed the plains with his family to Oregon, coming direct to Benton county, he purchased his present valuable farm of 750 acres adjoining Wells Station. Mr DODELE has a family of 3 sons and 2 daughters, viz: Felix, Eugene, Paul, Matilda (Mrs. Columbia READ), and Honora, (Mrs. Chas. READ).

EGLIN, Thomas--is one of the substantial business men of Corvallis, where he has lived for the past 20 years, during which time he has collected through his own industry and correct business principles a fair share of this world's goods, and through fair dealing with his fellow man has won the regard and friendship of the residents of Benton county. Mr. EGLIN was born in Oxford, Canada, 8 October 1828, and came to Oregon in 1861, and in 1864 took up his residence in Benton county, engaged in farming. Late on he opened his present livery and feed stable, in connection with which he carries on his farm, located just north of the city limits. He also is the proprietor of the stage line from Albany to Corvallis. Mr EGLIN was married in Porter county, Indiana, 29 October 1848 to Miss Phebe BLACHLY, a native of Ohio, by which union they have William C., Thomas N., John B., Mary A., George F., and James.