



# Mid-Valley Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

VOL. III NO 6

JUNE 1988

## WELCOME

to new member - Keith FORSGREN , who lives in Fairbanks Alaska and is researching James Davis BROWN and Mary Jane BROWN and Makesome RANKIN- all living in Corvallis 1880. John RANKIN crossed the plains from IL in 1852 and was in Albany in 1856. Keith would appreciate any info on these ancestors. Maybell will forward any information you may have.

## COMING EVENTS (or things to look forward to)

The Oregon Genealogy Society, Eugene, will present Arthur FISKE in a research seminar- 29 October, 1988. Topics will be: Tracing your Mayflower Ancestors; Getting your ancestors out of the midwest; Types of colonial land records; and Research in NY colony and state.- Sounds interesting & worthwhile. More info as to time and fees will be coming.

Saturday, June 25 - A genealogical Seminar by Norman MOYES at ME Church in Madras, OR. Topic: Getting the Most out of Your Research Efforts. Fee \$20. Time: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.-

The cemetery group will be re-forming and going out in the field again during the 4th week of June. Why not take this opportunity to get some fresh air, good friends to work with, and the knowledge that you are doing a worth while project for other genealogists as well as helping the community preserve its history. If you can help, let Becky Kiger know.

Next meeting of our Society will be September 10. Plan to attend and share your vacation genealogy trips and research successes with us. Here's wishing happy summer time for all of you- come back rested and refreshed.

## THIS AND THAT

The May-June HELPER has just arrived. It has a current list of Family Associations and their leaders. Better take a look to see if any of your families are included.

The LDS Family History Center (the new name for their Genealogy library) has received updated microfiche for the IGI (International Genealogical Index). These are now being filed and will be available soon. The "Family REgistry" was updated in April 1988.

NEW BOOKS in our library are: VIRGINIA'S COLONIAL SOLDIERS by Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, THE RESEARCHERS GUIDE TO AMERICAN GENEALOGY by Val Greenwood, and VITAL RECORDS HANDBOOK by Thomas J Kemp- each one of these volumes are outstanding. Thanks-book committee.



## BENTON COUNTY PIONEERS (continued)

ALEXANDER, Joseph C--born in Frederick Co, Maryland, 29 Dec 1809, where he spent his boyhood until March 1818, when his parents moved to Stark co, Ohio, and the succeeding years until 1843, with the exception of a couple of years spent at the coopers's trade, Mr. ALEXANDER spent in boating on the Erie and Ohio canals. In the above year, he, with his wife and 2 children left Cleveland for Andrew Co, Missouri. The spring of 1846 found our subject and his family members of a company fitted out to cross the plains to Oregon. On the Platt river, although a stranger to the great majority he was, however, elected Captain of the train of 53 wagons, a position he filled until their safe arrival in Jackson Co, Oregon. Mr. ALEXANDER then came direct to Benton co, and in the fall of 1846 located on the farm now owned by S.N. LILLEY, near Corvallis and there resided until 1876, when he traded farms with Mr. LILLEY and then moved to his present home in the south end of King's Valley, where he owns 677 acres of good land. Mr. A. has held several county and State offices. He was first appointed by Gen. LANE, one of the first county commissioners of Benton county, and at the same time was appointed Justice of the Peace, and in the latter office he had the honor of administering the oath of office to the first county officers of Benton County, thereby setting the first county government in motion. In 1862, he was elected Sheriff of Benton county and in 1868 to the state legislature. (4)

AVERY, Hon Joseph C--There are few names that appear more frequently in the pioneer annals of the Great Northwest, than that which stands at the head of this short memoir. This old pioneer, after a long life actively spent among the early trials and vicissitudes incident to the development of Oregon from a wilderness to civilization, finally yielded to the march of time, and answering to the call of the Dark Angel, passed into the shadowy unknown. His death, which leaves but a corporal's guard of that old pioneer phalanx to Benton Co in 1845 behind, occurred 16 June 1876. Mr Avery was born in Lucern county, Pennsylvania, 9 June 1817; he was educated at Wilksbarre, the county seat of his native county, and in 1839 came west to Illinois. In 1841 he was married to Miss Martha MARSH and in 1845 came across the plains arriving in what is now Corvallis, Benton county, the spring of 1846, and at that time located his claim at the junction of the Willamette and Mary's rivers. In the winter of 1850 he laid out a town site upon his land, which was called Marysville and afterwards changed to Corvallis. In 1849 he built a store building and engaged in the mercantile business which he continued for 23 years. Mr AVERY figured prominently in the politics of the county for a quarter of a century. He was a member of the first Territorial Legislature for Oregon, serving several terms, and was Postal Agent under the administration of President Buchanan. The early residents of the county remember him as being noble and generous, he had warm and true friends and few enemies, while his deeds of charity and acts of kindness and hospitality towards suffering immigrants in early days will ever be held in grateful remembrance. (4)

AVERY, Napoleon B, D.D.S.--In the gentleman whose name heads this sketch we have a descendant of one of the very first residents of Benton county. Mr. Avery is the son of Hon. J.C. and Martha (MARSH) Avery. Our subject first attended the common schools of Corvallis until the fall of 1876 when he was placed in the Bishop Scott Grammar School, of Portland, and afterwards attended DeFrance & White's Business College. On the completion of his studies he returned to Corvallis where he entered upon the study of dentistry for one year. In the fall of 1878 he went to Philadelphia and there entered the Philadelphia Dental College, graduating from that institution in the spring of 1880, when he returned to his home in Corvallis and entered upon the practice of his profession in which he is very successful.(4)