



# Mid - Valley Genealogical Society

PO BOX 1511  
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NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT: DANIEL FROEHLICH

EDITOR: ED STRATTON

## TODAYS PROGRAM

Allen Whytock will give a talk on the National Archives in Seattle. The program will be at 2:00 p.m.

## 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.

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.

## LABELS

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.

**NOTE:** All you need to bring in is the UPC Symbol. Be careful to cut a little extra package around the Symbol so that all of it is there. If you bring just the UPC Symbol, it will take less room in the library.

## CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP

Canadian Interest Group, is 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.

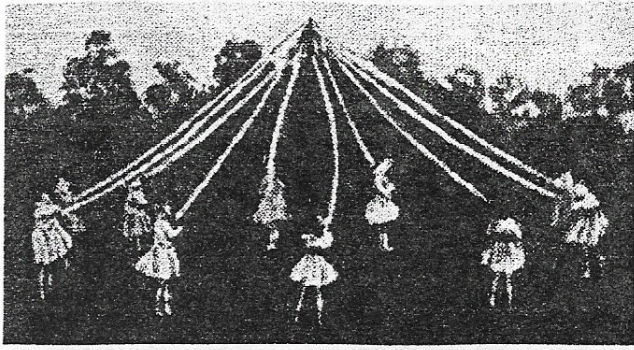
## MONTHLY SHARING

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	L, MI, WI, Ireland and Scotland
Jun	N, IA, KS (NOTE: new this month is KS.)
Sep	NY, NJ, MD, DC
Oct	NH, VT, MA, ME
Nov	CT, RI, DE
Dec	Auction and Christmas Tea





## CHARTER MEMBERS

Here is the next installment on the Charter Member Interviews by Lee Rudisill. These articles will be in the Newsletter, as interviews with the charter members will allow. This article was written By Betty Wilson

## BETTY WILSON

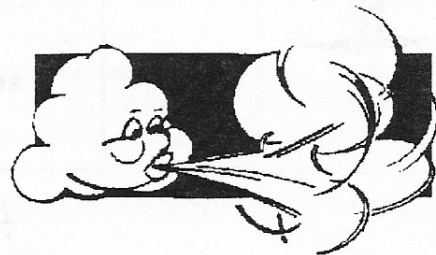
For me, the seed of family history interest imbedded itself in my being when I was very young. Growing-up years were spent in the Puget Sound area of Washington State. Even though dormant, I know this seed absorbed nutrients as parents and relatives spoke of the past, of relationships, hardships, and places.

While contact with my mother's people within the state was fairly frequent, it was only through precious letters that we came to know my father's people in Yorkshire. I learned how revealing letters and personal accounts can be of character, creed, good heartedness -- and idiosyncrasies.

Thus, when research and record keeping moved into my activities in 1953, the seed had sprouted and was growing from a firm foundation of locked-in remembrances, helpful encouragement, and a genuine appreciation of heritage.

For many years I taught classes in genealogy and related topics. My husband and I served for 18 months (1988-89) in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. We have been associated with the Family History Center in Corvallis since it opened in 1975.

I have only praise and admiration for the Mid-Valley Genealogical Society members, for the good work they do, and for their friendliness and their many accomplishments. Although I have spoken twice at meetings, my support has been mainly in small ways as I see opportunity to help.



## NEW LIBRARY RULES

There are some new rules going into effect about the library. Due to requests from members, the board has decided to try the following changes.

1. Books may be checked out by members on Tuesdays. During the winter months when we are meeting regularly, they are to be returned at the next meeting. In the summer months, when there are no meetings, they maybe kept for one month.

2. In order to minimize the problem of members keeping books out for extended periods, the following will apply. If a book is out for two months, the librarian well then notify the holder that it is overdue. If it has not been returned at the end of six months, the holder will be expected to pay for the book.

## POLICY ON CLEAN-UP AFTER MEETINGS

The policy on clean-up after the meeting has apparently was not given to all of our new members, as some have stated that they didn't know what it was.

The people that sign up to bring the goodies are responsible for the clean-up after the meeting. This policy has been in effect since we moved to our new home in 1991.

The garage sale has finally been set. It will be May 22 at Jean Grube's from 9:00 to 4:00. Items may be taken to her place from now until the Friday before the sale. Help is needed for the pricing. Pat Coolican, who does sales professionally will help.



## TRIP TO OREGON

by Betty Swan

This is the story of my maternal Great Grandparents trip to Oregon in 1865. They traveled by steamboat and train. The story was written by Vincent, one of their sons, as he remembered it.

I was the second son. My parents, George A. and Caroline Brewer Manning and eleven children left Perry County, Missouri, on the 11th day of January, 1865, the whole bunch, feather beds and baggage on two wagons for Saint Genevieve landing. From there we took a steamboat to St. Louis. The going was slow as the river was full of floating ice. From St. Louis we took the train for New York. Taking an ocean steamer there, we were nine days on the Atlantic, but on arriving at the Isthmus of Panama it was dry and warm. At Aspinwald and Panama the ladies were attractively dressed and it was their effort to sell fruit to the passengers, there and at the railroad stations across the Isthmus. Their selling talk, especially to the young men, was sweeter than their fruit.

When we got across the Isthmus, we had to go on a flat boat, or barge, some distance through the shallow water to the ocean steamer, which was anchored in deep water further out. Our steamer stopped at Acapulco for coal, stopping out in the bay. A couple of barges brought coal to the ship and hundreds of canoes came around the ship all loaded with beautifully colored specimens of coral for sale. They were more than pretty as seen in artificial light and the passengers bought freely.

The water in Acapulco Bay was clear as crystal and full of fish. About nine o'clock the following morning our own ship left the bay going out through a narrow and winding channel between high, and rocky banks.

The Pacific was calm and smooth most of the way from the Isthmus to San Francisco. We saw many whales at a distance spouting like a hose with heavy pressure. Many nights, the ocean being smooth as glass and moon being full, the young people had moonlight dances on deck. It took fourteen days from the Isthmus to San Francisco and five days from Frisco to Portland. A lady fell overboard, but she had on a heavy quilted petticoat which opened up like a parachute and caused her to float till help arrived.

After five days from Frisco, we landed at the foot of Stark Street, Portland, Oregon, on the 23rd of February, 1865. We took a road going south in a wagon my father hired to haul our baggage, mother and the smaller children. The rest of us walked, taking two and one-half days to make about thirty-eight miles from Portland to that part of French Prairie, sixteen miles north of Salem in Marion County, at old St. Louis, Oregon.

Here my Father bought our first farm at nine dollars per acre. Our trip from Missouri to Oregon for thirteen persons, large and small, cost my Father two thousand two hundred dollars, but it was money well spent, for we liked Oregon. Father lived to the ripe old age of eighty-two and Mother ninety, and I the fifth child of their family of fourteen children, am past seventy-five years of age, and the father of eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, the youngest of which is thirty-four years of age, and I am young and healthy yet another feather in Oregon's cap.

The route across the plains had its dangers of Indian attacks and massacres, etc. Likewise the route by water was exposed to storms and shipwrecks, etc. I well remember one dark cloudy morning after leaving New York; the waves were high and our ship was rolling from side to side on the billowy deep. I was out on deck and feeling bad, all at once my stomach turned and I started out for the side of the ship just when the ship rolled to that side, the railing was just high enough to keep me from going into the ocean, but my new white felt hat, of which, as a boy of twelve, I was proud, went off into the sea and I had to be glad it was my hat and not myself that had to be lost. I looked around and no person was in sight. Had I gone overboard, no one would have seen me and I never would have seen Oregon and my eleven children, eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren would never have existed to perpetuate my memory, give honor or dishonor to my name and honor and service to God and Country.

The End

NOTE: from Betty.

My grandfather, Joseph M. Manning, was nine years old and the seventh child, and third son of this large family when they made their trip to Oregon.



**DID YOU KNOW?**


by Sandra Ihrig

**NOTE:** I wish all members of the Society were as helpful to the newsletter as Sandy and a couple of others are. She is always finding the most delightful articles for me.

Recently while on a museum tour I noticed that the ceramic commodes placed under the poster beds appeared to have crochet and knitted tops over the lids. I'm not sure whether I asked or the tour guide volunteered the information but I was about to be educated.

The adornment of the commodes had a practical application. Do you know what that application is?

When one got up in the middle of the night to use the commode and replaced the lid, the knitted covering prevented the lid from clanking and waking up your bed partner. I am not sure what I am going to do with this information except perhaps share it with you.



**THE  
GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL  
OF OREGON**

**Will present its  
Annual Conference**

**September 24-26, 1993**

**"Family Trails"**

*Celebrating the  
Oregon Trail  
Sesquicentennial*

**Holiday Inn Portland South  
Wilsonville, Oregon**

**CONTACT: Genealogical Council of Oregon  
PO Box 15169, Portland, OR 97215**

