



Mid-Valley Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

VOL. III, NO. 9
NOVEMBER, 1988

WELCOME

COMING EVENTS:

Nov. 13, Sunday at 2 pm. The annual meeting of the Benton County Historical Society at the Museum. A program about the Soap Creek Schoolhouse will follow the business meeting.

Dec 10 - next meeting of our Society. This is the gala time of the annual Christmas Auction. Members are asked to bring items for the auction - either food, handmade craft items or other. All proceeds will go to the book fund- what a worthy cause! In addition to the auction items, please bring a plate of goodies- cookies, breads, candies, etc. for the celebration. Don't forget to bring money so you too can bid and take home some treasures.

Jan, 14, 1989 - the program will feature Dick MILLICAN who will tell about and bring a master list of the books in their Albany Library that were recently acquired by 2 bequests from genealogists

May 29 - June 1, 1991 - Portland Forum will host the National Genealogical Society's Conference in the States. The theme- "Come to the End of the Oregon Trail".

THIS AND THAT

The Benton County Historical Museum has recently acquired the microfilms of: Oregon Death Records- 1903 - 1970; Oregon Divorce Records- 1946 - 1970 and Oregon Marriage records by bride & groom- 1910 - 1970. These films will be available for research -its a good idea to call ahead to make sure the Librarian is there.

Bring books on New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and The Dist. of Columbia to share at the December meeting.

1989 Dues are payable now- it's still a bargain at \$4.

GLEANINGS

The Social Security Administration has plans to destroy the original 37 million applications for Social Security. Some of the information has been put on computer, but much of the general info was omitted. The early files include many people born in the 1860's and 70's as well as many naturalized citizens.

Letters urging the retention of the original records may be sent to: Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Blvd. Baltimore, MD 21235 and to your representatives in Congress for their assistance in retaining these records.

One needs Form F SSA-L997 from a SSA office to obtain a copy of the application form for a deceased relative who applied for Social Security. (from Ohio Gen Soc Newsletter, Oct. 1988)

Descendants of members of the Orphan Brigade (1st Kentucky Brigade, C.S.A.) are forming a non-profit organization to be known as "The Orphan Brigade Kinfolk." The purpose of the group is to preserve and honor the memory of one of the most celebrated bands of fighting men in the Civil War. The organization also proposes to collect and make public all physical evidence available to help further identify the individual soldiers in the Orphan Brigade by collecting their pictures and any other existing info concerning them.

If you are a lineal or collateral descendant of a member of the Orphan Brigade, please contact Porter Harned, 1012 King Arthur Lane, Louisville, KY 40222, for more information. (from The bulletin of the Kentucky Historical Society, Oct 1988)

Did you know that the U.S. Postoffice has a very attractive FAMILY TREE CHART that they are giving away free? Look for it in one of the racks in the lobby of the Corvallis Post Office. The Postmaster says "The Postal Service is part of the fabric of american life. We do more than deliver the mail. We deliver ideas and dreams and help preserve our heritage." --Guess they are aware of who does the most letter writing these days - it must be us genealogists.

Did you know that you can purchase double postcards from the Post Office for 306 a set? Try using these instead of a SASE for requests requiring a short answer. Self address the second card and maybe devise a checklist type of form on the reverse side. Fasten the cards together and mail them. (from March 1988, Decatur Gen. Soc. newsletter)

A search is presently underway for "Orphan Train" riders through out the United States. Between 1854 and 1929, over 150,000 orphaned, abandoned and homeless children were taken out of the institutions of New York City, and transported by trains to rural America. At stops along the way, the children were lined up on railway station platforms, churches, schools, and opera houses for local residents to look them over and perhaps choose a child to take into their homes. Those not chosen were loaded back on the train and the entire procedure repeated at the next stop. Many brothers and sisters became separated for the rest of their lives. This became known as the "placing-out" system and the trains were often called "Orphan Trains", "Baby Trains" or "Mercy Trains" carried infants up to the age of three years old from New York Foundling Hospitals to prearranged foster homes. A numbered cloth tag was sewn onto the infants under clothing and a cooresponding number given to the potential new parents. When the train arrived, folks holding a number card would board the train and find their child. Federal child welfare reform laws were enacted in 1929. The "Orphan Trains" were stopped forever. The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Inc. (OTHTSA) is a nationwide clearinghouse for information concerning the history of the placing out programs from 1854 until 1929. Readers are invited to share any information you have about Orphan Train riders, or if you want a free OTHSA newsletter, send a SASE to: OTHSA, Rt. 4, Bos 565, Springdale, AR 72764. (taken from KIN HUNTERS, July 1988)

The latest issue of the HELPER has an informative article on the International Genealogical Index (IGI). The 1988 edition is now being or has been distributed to all the LDS Family History centers. The article discusses some of the differences from the old IGI

BENTON COUNTY PIONEERS (cont'd)

BENNETT, William--Born near Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, 15 November 1834. At the age of 12 years his parents moved to Muscatine, Iowa, and 2 years later moved to Knox county, Illinois, whence, in 1850, he, with one brother started across the plains to Oregon, arriving in Linn county in the fall of that year, where he lived until 1854, when he came to Benton county, and took up a donation claim four miles south of Philomath. In 1879 he purchased his present farm of 334 acres, 10 miles west of Corvallis. Mr. Bennett also owns a farm 2 miles from Corvallis, and a valuable farm in Wasco county, where he is engaged in farming and stock raising.

BENSEL, Royal A., Hon.--Was born in Cassville, Wisconsin, and is now 48 years of age. His father, Dr. BENSEL, was born in Pennsylvania and a graduate of the Pennsylvania State Medical University, and in early days emigrated to Wisconsin. When our subject was but a mere child his parents moved to Clayton county, Iowa, and at the age of 13 he became "devil" on the "Clayton Co, Herald" and there spent three years at the printer's trade. In 1849 Mr. Bensel's mother died, and in 1854 he, with his father, crossed the plains to California, where he followed mining for 7 years. He then enlisted in Company D. Fourth California Infantry, and with his regiment came to Oregon and followed a soldier's life for 3 years. On his discharge in 1864, he came to Yaquina Bay and embarked in the milling business. In 1871 he was appointed Inspector of Customs for Yaquina Bay. In 1868 he was elected to the State Legislature, and again elected to the same office in 1876.

BLAIR, Colbert P., Hon.--This well known and highly respected resident of Corvallis, a native of Burke county, North Carolina, born 30 January 1805, is the son of Colbert & Jane (MURRY) BLAIR. His boyhood was passed in his birth-place until 18 years of age; his parents then moved to Kentucky and afterwards to Illinois. Mr BLAIR learned the trade of engineer, in which capacity he ran steamers from St. Louis to Natchez. In 1837 he located in Lee county, Iowa, from whence, in 1853, he emigrated with his family to Oregon, coming direct to Benton county, where he has since resided. In 1862 Mr BLAIR was elected to the State Legislature. Although now in his 80th year and on the sunset side of life, he is as hale and hearty as the majority of men at 60. He is genial, kind and generous, and one whom it is a pleasure to meet. He now has lived to see 40 grand children and 19 great grand children. It is our sincere wish that he may live to see these numbers doubled.

BLAIR, Thomas J.--Was born in Bond county, Illinois 11 June 1830, but at the age of 6 years went with his parents to Lee county, Iowa, where he resided and engaged in farming until the spring of 1853. Mr. BLAIR and his wife now crossed the plains to Oregon, arriving in October of that year; but in March of 1854, he removed from Oregon City to Benton county, and first settled on the South Fork of Mary's river, on land now owned by Mr. SPEARS. While residing on this claim our subject found the country in the throes of a civil war, and like every patriotic citizen he determined to contribute towards the maintenance of the Union, therefore, in 1864 he enlisted in Company A., First Oregon Infantry and with that corps served nearly 2 years. Upon obtaining his discharge he disposed of his farm, removed to Yaquina Bay and there dwelt for 3 years, when, transferring his residence in 1878, to the city of Corvallis, he engaged in a warehouse and grain-storing business. In the spring of 1884, Mr. Blair was elected to the office of Treasurer of Benton county on the Republican ticket, and is still the able and efficient holder of the position. Married in Lee county, Iowa in 1851, Miss Lucinda J MONTGOMERY, who died 30 June 1881, and had a family, viz: Martha N (now Mrs. F. H. SAWTELL), Nellie, and Clara.

BLODGET, William--After whom the beautiful little valley that now bears his name was called, is a native of Jefferson county, New York, born 8 October 1811. In 1847 he was one of the hardy pioneers that braved the dangers of a trip across the plains to Oregon. In the spring of 1848 he came to Benton county, and a short time after located in what is now known as Blodget's Valley, where he has since resided and followed farming.