



Mid - Valley Genealogical Society

Corvallis, Oregon
FOUNDED in 1971
PO BOX 1511
CORVALLIS OR 97339

NEWSLETTER

VOL. VI NO. 8
OCTOBER 1991

PRESIDENT: DANIEL FROEHLICH

EDITOR: ED STRATTON

NEW MEMBERS

We have three new members this month. Two of them are spouses of current members.

Janice Haberman 5555 SW Plymouth Dr
97333 752-5979
Howard Ihrig 236 S 17th St.
97370 929-2449
Georgene Stephenson 410 S 19th St.
97370 929-5385

One member was left off of the list.

Charlene Talbot 602 S 15th St.
97370 929-6079

Please bring your membership list up to date. If you haven't gotten a new one, see Jean Grube.

NEW LIBRARY

The new library seems to be a big hit with the members. At the first meeting in our new home at the Annex, a lot of positive comments were heard.

The Library is now open on Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. There are two volunteer librarians on duty to assist you and to protect our valuable books. There is now a nice wooden clock donated by John Martsching in the library and a clock bought for us by Betty Swan in the main room. The large fluorescent light, donated by Pat Coolican, is installed. Jerry Ansell and Ed Stratton put it in on Tuesday. Thank you for these pieces.

If you would like to be a volunteer, contact Jean Grube. She will give you the information that you will need and sign you up for a date. So far we have had no problems getting enough people and we are set through the end of the month.

One thing you might want to look at is the circular file in the library. It contains odds and ends of catalogues, pamphlets and general information mail. Give it a look, it might contain something of interest to you.

QUERIES

This month there are three queries.

First, if you know anything about the **REEVES** family who came across the plains in 1846 to Yamhill County then to Benton County in about 1870. They are William and Josephine (**TOWNSEND**) **REEVES** and their four children, Andrew, Henrietta, George and Thomas.

When they came to Benton county they settled in the area of Township 13S, R10W. This would be somewhere around the area of Little Switzerland and Tidewater. It works out to about 10 miles west of Missouri Bend at the western edge of what is now the Benton Lincoln county line, on Highway 34. George married Elizabeth **GOLDEN** December 19 1894.

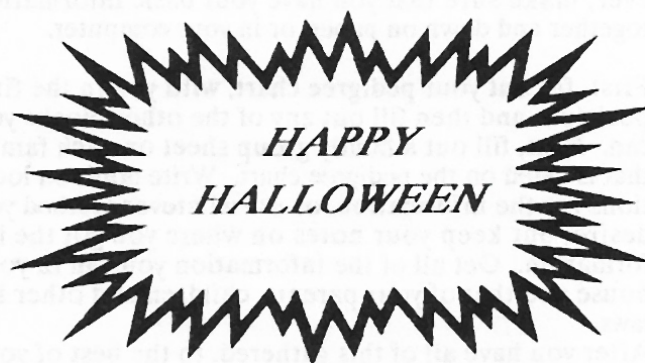
Mabelle says that this does not seem to be the **REEVES** that married into the **BARCLAY** family.

Second, I have three pictures and eight negatives that someone took from original pictures.

One is three boys and a girl posing inside. Two is what looks like a husband and wife standing beside a log pile. Three is an elderly lady with a younger middle aged lady. They will not be thrown out. If you find the owner let your editor know.

Third is from Esther Forsyth.

Ellen Nancy **COWDRY** was born in 1868 and died in Linn County Oregon in 1909. She is buried in the IOOF Cemetery in Lebanon, Oregon. Any help will be appreciated.



CENSUS BUREAU

We have received the following notice from the Bureau of the Census.

NOTICE

The U.S. Census Bureau's age and citizenship searching service has relocated from Pittsburg, Kansas, to Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Effective immediately applications for age search should be directed to:

Bureau of the Census
PO Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131

There is a new form for requesting this information. They say that additional forms will be supplied upon request to this office.



HOME ARTS FESTIVAL

Becky, Damaris and Jean are at the teaching game again. If you haven't seen them you ought to, they are good.

On the 21st of October from approximately 3:15 to 4:45 (Monday afternoon) they will be part of the Home Arts Festival sponsored by the County Home Extension Service. Cost is \$3.00.

The class will be at the Assembly of God Church on the corner of 35th and Harrison. The program is entitled "Ancestor Hunting". It will be on beginning genealogical researching.

For more information contact Marcia at 758-4370 or the County Extension Service at 757-6750.

A NOTE TO BEGINNERS

Before you start to hunt for your great - great - whatever, make sure that you have your basic information together and down on paper, or in your computer.

First, fill out your pedigree chart, with you in the first position, and then fill out any of the other blocks you can. Next, fill out a family group sheet on each family that is listed on the pedigree chart. Write notes on locations for the information, or use whatever method you desire, but keep your notes on where you got the information. Get all of the information you can in your house and that of your parents, children and other in-laws.

After you have all of this gathered, to the best of your ability, then you can start the search for the long missing ones.

FORTHCOMING CLASS FOR BEGINNERS

Damaris, Becky, Ed and Jean have been appointed to a committee to check into a community wide class on how to start looking for and recording your genealogical information. This is in the formative stages and will not be for a few months yet. We hope to have it in the Museum, sometime in early 1992. With sufficient advertising, county wide, we should have a good turnout for such an endeavor. We will keep you informed as things progress.



FROM THE EDITOR

A few months ago I was listening to two of our older members talking. The subject was using a computer for storing the information we use in our genealogical files.

The basic feeling that I got from them was that they did not want to put their information in one of the computer programs because they were afraid that someone they didn't want would find out information about them.

On Wednesday the 2nd and again on Sunday the 6th I watched a program on Oregon Public Broadcasting (channel 7) about the subject of information privacy. I hope that all of you watched this program entitled "All about you". It was from files started by John Tuttle, a reporter for OPB that passed on this last July. Pete Schulberg, from channel 8, hosted the program and the part that John had not finished before his death.

Quoting from the TV Guide "An examination of the "myth of privacy" and how personal information about individuals can be made public." At the start of the show John got a license number from a car passing on the street. From only this information, he was able to find the names, political affiliation, bank account number and balances, unlisted phone number, and a lot of other information that the people surely didn't want someone else to know.

The main thing you should know is that you are on these data bases (estimated to be around 5000), and that there is not much that you can do to get yourself off of them. Of course you could totally drop out and live in the woods with the bears.

I am sure that OPB will show the program again. Keep your eyes open for it and watch the program if you didn't this time.

GOOD CORRESPONDENCE PRACTICES

Betty Wilson gave us the following article.

The following is from the Vice-President of the Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society in Longmont, Colorado. They came in the Oct 1990 Newsletter.

- * Buy two sizes of business envelopes, one to fit inside the other without folding.
- * When sending out a family group sheet to be completed, be sure your name and address are on it. As it gets photocopied, future correspondents will see your name and write to you.
- * Send thank-you letters, even to county clerks, as it opens the doors for the next person who asks for help.
- * It is a good idea to send small donations, even if no fee is indicated.
- * Send a picture (or copy of a picture), or some bit of information with your first personal letter to a correspondent in order to present yourself as a sharing person, not one who is solely an asking person.

"They who take no personal pride in noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered by remote descendants."

-Macauley-



FAGAN: HISTORY OF BENTON COUNTY, OREGON BIOGRAPHIES 1885

McCORMIC, John K. -- was born in Dixon county, Tennessee, 19 February 1827. In 1831 his parents moved to Morgan county, Illinois, where he resided until 1851, when he crossed the plains to Oregon and followed mining in Jackson county until 1852. He then came to Benton county, and located a donation claim 8 miles west of Corvallis. In 1857 he moved to the Alsea valley and purchased the farm on which he now resides of 325 acres.

MACKAY, William -- the subject of this sketch was born near Ottawa, Canada, 18 August 1842, where he lived until 1865, when he, with his wife and one child, came via Panama to Portland, Oregon. January, 1866 he moved to Yaquina Bay, locating on his present farm of 147 acres, opposite Toledo, where he is engaged in logging and farming. Mr. **MACKAY** was appointed the first Postmaster of Toledo on the bay. He was united in marriage in Canada, April 1863, to Miss Tressa **McGRATH**, by which union they have 8 children.

MARTIN, James -- was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1822. In 1847 he emigrated to America, and until 1852 resided in the eastern states. In the above year he crossed the plains to Oregon and came direct to Benton county, and located his donation claim where he now resides, 5 miles north-east of Monroe, to which he has since added by purchase until now he has an estate of 900 acres. Mr. **MARTIN** is married and has 2 children -- Ida and John L.

MILNER, Prof. Edgar A. -- there is scarcely a resident of Benton county, who does not know E. A. **MILNER**. Ever since grown to man's estate he has taken an active part in the affairs of the community where he lives. His is one of those aggressive, go-ahead dispositions that believe in themselves. Hope or ambition as a purely sentimental attribute does not enter into his composition, but are replaced by the sterner qualities of self-reliance and courage -- both moral and physical. He is an example of the time honored adage that "God helps those who help themselves," and his whole life has bristled with instances of this belief. He is a man of strong convictions and honest prejudices, scorning the hypocrisy of policy, and dealing by his friends as his friends. In fact, he possess one virtue above all others, in dealing with the world, everybody, whether friend or foe, knows where he may be found when wanted. His nature is positive in its character, and when he has once settled in his mind that he is right, nothing can swerve him from his course. Such a character must succeed. Prof **MILNER** was born in Benton county, 1 October 1852. When 9 years of age he was placed in the Sister's College at Vancouver, where he remained until 1865, when he was transferred to the Santa Clara College, California, where he spent the following two years. He then returned to Benton County, and one year later he entered that well-known educational institution, the Notre Dame University of South Bend, Indiana, from which he graduated in 1871. He then returned to his first Alma Mater at Vancouver, and was then employed for one year, as one of the faculty of the college. Then he returned to Corvallis and was appointed principal of the Public Schools of that place, a position he has held

for the past thirteen years, which in itself is sufficient proof of the high esteem in which Mr. **MILNER** is held in that city. He has held the office of County Superintendent of Schools for Benton county in 1874, 1882, and 1884.

MORRIS, J. P. H. -- is the son of Charles A. F. **MORRIS**, the Chief Engineer of the Southern extension of the Oregon and California Railroad, and was born in Illinois, 22 February 1854. In 1857 his parents moved to Minnesota where he lived until 1882, when he came to Oregon and accepted the position of general time-keeper in the southern division of the O. & C. R. R., a position he held until the following year. Then after a short time spent in Seattle he came to Yaquina Bay and purchases **HUNSACKER**'s store at Oneatta. In the fall of 1884, he moved to Newport where he opened his present drug and millinery store. Married, and has one son Edwin L. **MORRIS**.

MULKEY, Albert G. -- in the gentleman whose name heads this sketch we have a descendant of one of the very early pioneer families to Oregon. Albert G. is the son of James L. **MULKEY**, and was born in Buchanan county, Missouri, 18 October 1838. In the spring of 1844 his father (His mother being dead) and 8 children started across the plains to Oregon. After a long and weary journey they arrived at Walla Walla in the fall of that year. There they spent the first winter, and in the spring of 1845, came to North Yamhill, and in 1846, came to Benton county, and in the fall of that year located on the place where our subject now resides, a view of which appears in this work. Here for nearly forty years has Mr. **MULKEY** lived, and there are few names in Benton county more respected than that of A. G. **MULKEY**.

MULKEY, Hon. James L. -- Senior, deceased. The subject of this sketch was born 19 February 1797 in the state of Tennessee, near Nashville, was the eldest child of John & Polly **MULKEY**, and had in his veins the sturdy admixture of Scotch-Irish blood. During the eighteen years that he resided upon his father's farm with his parents he acquired the rudiments of a common school education, accomplishing this only by the greatest industry and self-denial -- snatching a few moments now and again from the labors of the field, and at night, when the day's work was done, by pouring over the most primitive books, unaided by teacher or light, save such as was afforded by the historic pine-knot fire. At about the age of eighteen Mr. **MULKEY**, left home to attend a private school, where he performed manual labor to defray the expenses of his Murray's Grammar and Syke's Arithmetic, the analysis and solution of every example of which he wrote out in full, as is shown by papers still preserved as an heirloom by his descendants. At the close of his pupilage our subject was employed to teach in Nashville, Tennessee, where he successfully and successively taught for a period of about 8 years, when proceeding to Randolph county, Alabama, he followed for a time the same vocation, and there espoused Miss Mary **DINSMORE**. Thence, Mr. **MULKEY** transferred his residence to Missouri, still engaging in the instruction of the young, in Chariton,

Jackson, and Cole counties, in the last of which he was elected to the position of County Judge, and filled the office with credit for several consecutive terms, Court being held in Jefferson City. From Cole county he went to the "Platte Purchase," settling in Buchanan county, near Bloomington, in or about A.D. 1836. Here he engaged in clearing and improving a farm until the spring of 1844. In February, 1842, Mr. **MULKEY** lost his wife, by death, a misfortune that so unnerved him that he longed to get away from the place and its sorrowful associations. Under this state of mind the glowing pictures of western explorers and the enthusiasm of **FREMONT**, **LINN**, and **BENTON** -- with the last of whom he maintained a personal friendship -- were more than sufficient to settle him into a determined resolution to emigrate to far off Oregon. In the spring of 1844 with a family of 9 motherless children, he bade adieu to home and kindred and launched forth upon the long and hazardous journey before him. Spring, summer and autumn passed; winter closed in and he had not yet reached the promised land where "rolled the Oregon," but was compelled, with nine other families, to go into winter quarters 10 miles above the old Whitman Station on the Umatilla. In the succeeding spring the journey was continued and the North Yamhill reached. In the fall and winter of 1845, in company with Johnson **MULKEY**, the country now forming Benton county was penetrated. Here, in or about December, 1845, our subject located his claim, cut and hauled logs for his cabin, and erected a "camp" or "shanty." This location is about 2 miles northwest from the present city of Corvallis. Returning, he wintered on the Yamhill and in March, 1846, moved his family to his claim in Benton county. On this farm he resided during the remainder of his life, engaging in general farming and stock-raising, he having brought across the plains a few head of excellent cattle and a small band of the finest horses he was able to procure in Virginia and Kentucky. Mr. **MULKEY** filled several important positions of public trust in Benton county, having served her in the first Legislature under the Territorial organization. He also took the census of Benton county in 1850, as the deputy of J. C. **EVERY**, and performed the entire work on foot. He was a man of conservative thought; of stern and inflexible integrity. His hospitality was generous and free, often beyond his means. In his intercourse with men he was more retiring than obtrusive; seeking and attracting as well as being attracted by the better class, among his friends he counted such men of distinction as Rev. A. F. **WALLER**, Judge O. C. **PRATT**, General **LANE**, and Hon. M. P. **DEADY**, who frequently were visitors at the old pioneers home. In religion Mr. **MULKEY** was liberal. Never having attached himself to any sect, yet he was a firm believer in the religion of Christ. In politics he was a life-long democrat of the Free soil, Jacksonian stamp -- a hater of slavery he equally detested Abolitionism -- a lover of justice, he believed in the Reign of Law. He died 25 April 1855.