



Mid - Valley Genealogical Society

Corvallis Oregon
Founded in 1971
PO BOX 1511
CORVALLIS OR 97339

PRESIDENT: DANIEL FROELICH

NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: ED STRATTON

OREGON TRAIL

The BLM's National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is located five miles east of Baker City on State Highway 86.

It is open daily (except Christmas and New Years)

from
9:00 am to 6:00 pm from May to Labor Day
and
9:00 am to 4:00 pm from Labor Day to April 30.

There is no admission fee.

Phone 1-800-523-1235 or (503) 523-1845.

ALBANY AUTHOR

Margaret L. Ingram of Albany, has published a personal history workbook that provides instruction on how to compile the memories of a lifetime.

Ingram has taught classes on how to write a life story at LBCC and other Community colleges.

Her 50-page workbook is available for \$7.50 at Rainbows End Bookstore in Two Rivers Market, Albany; the OSU Bookstore in Corvallis; or by writing: Memories Plus, PO Box 1339, Albany OR 97321.

ARCHIVAL STORAGE

Mary Yoke gave your editor the following information.

The Film Machine in the south west area of the Payless lot in Corvallis has Archival quality photo and negative carriers. These run from 35mm to full page envelopes. They are \$8.95 for a pack of 25. Also they have an Archival Storage System for \$14.95

If you are interested, stop in and check it out.

BCHS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Benton County Historical Society will be Sunday afternoon, November 1 at 1:00 pm. It will be in The Moreland Auditorium, on the second floor of the Museum, at 1101 Main Street in Philomath.

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.

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.

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.

PAF USERS GROUP

The PAF Users Group has been meeting each last Friday evening during the summer month at the Family History Center on Harrison. We have spent the last two months on a question and answer session. Those that have been attending have received a lot of good information.

If you are using PAF or are thinking of getting it, why not join us and, learn with us, about how to use this program.

Next meeting is October 30th at 7:00 pm at the Family History Center of the LDS Church on Harrison Ave.

VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD

Don't forget to vote on November 3rd. We hope that you will vote for the Museum levy. If your home is valued at \$100,000.00, the levy will cost you \$6.50 per year. This is about a \$3.00 increase over what you pay now. This is a small price to pay for the Museum we now have for our use.

If you support us, please talk it up with your friends, since most money proposals are voted down because the people don't know what they are voting on.

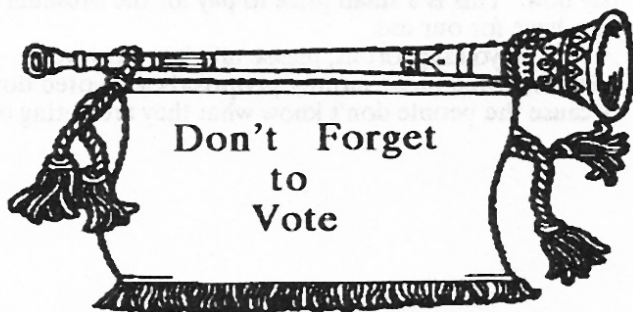
MONTHLY SHARING

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.

Jan	PA, OH
Feb	OR, WA, ID, MT
Mar	VA, WV
Apr	NC, KY, TN, and Germany
May	IL, MI, WI, Ireland and Scotland
Jun	IN, IA
Sep	NY, NJ, MD, DC
Oct	NH, VT, MA, ME
Nov	CT, RI, DE
Dec	Christmas Party

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

	The Pitcairn Island Register Book. Gift of Daniel Froehlich.
MO	Pioneers of Clay County, Missouri.
MO	Pioneers of Pike County, Missouri.
MO	Gone to Missouri, From Whence They Came, To Where and When.
IN	Maps of Indiana Counties in 1876. Gift of Jean Grube.
IN	Land Atlas of Henry County, Indiana, 1821 - 1849. Gift of Jean Grube
MO	Early Settlers of Missouri, as taken from land claims in the Missouri Territory.
MO	Missouri Genealogical Records and Abstracts, 3 Vols.
KY	Kentuckians in Illinois.
MO	Pioneers of the Six Bulls: the Newton County, MO, Saga Vol 1, 2d Series, Miscellaneous Re- cords. Gift of Lee Rudisill.
MO	Pioneers of the Six Bulls, etc., Part 3. Early families. Gift of Lee Rudisill.
MO	Pioneers of the Six Bulls, etc., Vol. VIII, Cemet- ery and Bible Records. Gift of Lee Rudisill.
OR	Inventory of the County Archives of Oregon. No. 2. Benton County.
SL	A Catalog of Titles in the Mid-Continent Public Library Genealogy Circulating Collection, July 1990. Gift of John and Ruth Redman.
PA	Pennsylvania County Maps.
CW	Assistance in Locating Your Missing Civil War Ancestors. Rev. 2d ed.
US	State Census Records by Loinhart

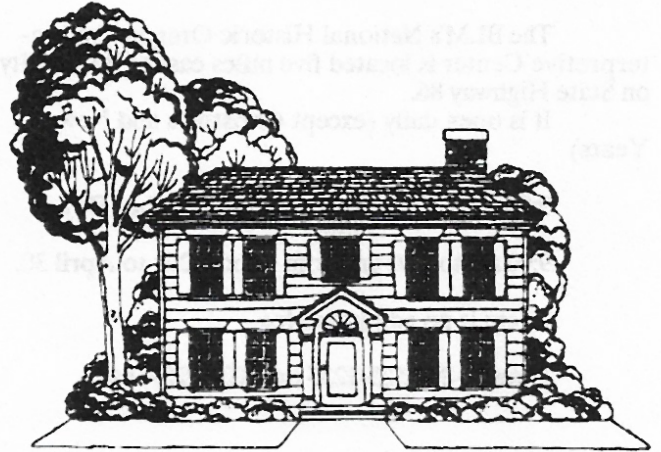


VISIT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

by Joanne Perry

While on vacation in Massachusetts this September, I visited the New Hampshire Historical Society and the New Hampshire State Library, both in Concord, New Hampshire. Finding these buildings is extremely easy, they are located on opposite sides of North State Street, fronting on Park Street.

From Route 93, take exit #14 (Center Street), turn left onto State Street. Street parking is metered, \$.25 per hour.



The State Library is open 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday, and there is no charge for use. I was interested in the Federal Census on microfilm and these are kept in the Government Documents area. They also had some city and county histories and the Census indices. There is also an extensive index to Early New Hampshire Town Records, consisting of hundreds of drawers of 3 X 5 index cards. These are filed alphabetically by personal name (city/town is indicated). Using this provides easier access to the microfilmed town records which are kept next to the census films.

There were 2 reader/printer and 2 readers available, although 1 reader/printer may be restricted to staff use if necessary. No lockers were in evidence.

The Historical Society is open to the public 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday and 12:00 noon - 4:30 pm Saturday. There is no established charge to enter, but a contribution of \$3.00 for adults is suggested.

The library is located on the first floor and has a daily \$3.00 charge for non-member use. The staff is extremely helpful in explaining the collection and answering questions. There are lockers but their use is not required although bags & purses are to be kept off the tables.

There is a staff-only photo copy machine for which they charge \$0.20 per page. Large orders will be mailed with a \$5.00 handling charge added.

These holdings are very extensive for New Hampshire and include materials for all the New England States. Family genealogies are filed in Dewey Decimal order and there are shelves and shelves of them. I recommend that persons in the area put in at least one day at the New Hampshire Historical Society before going to New England Historical and Genealogical Society in Boston, which I skipped this trip.

JAMES M. SMYTH

by John Redman

Last year we traveled to Eureka, Kansas, the town where my parents grew up. On our arrival we drove down Main Street to see if there was any thing I could recognize. I hadn't been there since the early 30's!! It was a pleasant surprise to find "Greenwood County Historical Society" museum. We parked our rig and went in to see what they had. We were greeted by a very friendly lady. As I tried to introduce myself as the grandson of James Morris **Smyth** she interrupted to ask if he was the Jim Smyth who rode into Kansas on a pig. I had to answer "not that I know of". It turned out to be true. Jim's father was a farmer in Missouri, adjacent to the Kansas border in what is now part of Kansas City, Missouri. In 1859 he moved the family to Greenwood County Kansas. The family brought a few hogs with them, driving them from Missouri, and six year old Jim helped to drive them. One hog was broken to saddle and Jim rode it while resting his tired legs.

The following is an article from "The Chronicle Magazine".

J. M. Smyth

J. M. **Smyth** was born in Jackson County, Missouri as near the Kansas line as possible March 5th, 1853 of Virginia Parentage. He came with his parents and a large family of brothers and sisters to Kansas in 1859, located in Greenwood County October 12th, 1859. His father, David **Smyth**, died in 1864 and his older brother, who was then County Treasurer, died in 1865, leaving young **Smyth** at the age of 12 years the oldest male member of the family.

He went to school in the log cabin school house of the day until the advancement gave better ones. In 1872 and 1873 he attended the State University and received some insight into a practical business life from that noted and thoroughly practical scholar Gen. John **Fraser**. He taught school three years in Kansas and two years in Oregon. Mr. **Smyth** returned home in 1877 and again engaged in farming. In 1882, 1883 and 1884 he was engaged in business in Iowa but returned to Greenwood county in the fall of 1884 and started the drug business. He was elected county Clerk in 1889 and served 4 years being re-elected in 1891 again at great odds as the Populists had carried the county by 550 majority in 1890. By untiring industry he had built up one of the best equipped drug and stationery business in southern Kansas which was completely destroyed by fire in 1890.

J. M. **Smyth** has always been an ardent and active Republican. He was married in 1877 but his wife died in 1878, he was again married in 1887 and has two bright little girls to adorn the home. He is a candidate for nomination for Secretary of State.

In the above article it mentions that Jim taught school in Oregon. He actually taught school near Philomath. We believe the school was a one room schoolhouse located south of town, now being used for a church. Jim's sister Vashti **Smyth** married Joseph A. **Hawkins** January 9, 1872. They moved to Philomath Oregon in 1876. Later after Jim married his second wife he visited Philomath and his sister,

Vashti. Vashti and Joseph had 7 children. A descendant still lives in Corvallis. Jim died May 11, 1932 after a long illness. Jim served as county clerk of Greenwood County; two terms as mayor of Eureka; as a member of the city council and at the time of his illness, he was city treasurer of Eureka. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Masonic and Woodmen lodges.

David **Smyth**, Jim's father was born May 20, 1810 in Wythe County, Virginia. David died June 23, 1864 in Quincy, Kansas. Nancy **Shepard**, David's wife, was born December 2, 1815 in either North Carolina or Kentucky. Rush county was named as the county in North Carolina. She died December 2, 1891 in Eureka Kansas. They were married 2 July, 1837 in Jackson County Missouri. We can't find any information on David or Nancy's parents or siblings.

One of life's little ironies -- Jim was an active, respected resident of Eureka, Kansas but he's now remembered as the child who rode into Kansas on a pig!!



D. FAGAN: HISTORY OF BENTON COUNTY, OREGON, BIOGRAPHIES 1885

WOODCOCK, M. S.--the subject of this sketch is the son of Martin **WOODCOCK** and Amanda J. **WOODCOCK**, whose maiden name was Amanda J. **WHITE**. The father was of German descents and mother Scotch. M. S. **WOODCOCK** was born in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, near the present city of Milwaukee, on the 9th day of May, 1849, who on the 24th day of February 1853, then not quite 4 years old, with his parents and accompanied by his two uncles, Horace and W. C. **WOODCOCK**, and other friends, in an emigrant train, with ox teams laden with their all, turned their faces toward the setting sun in search of the land of promise, the then but little known Oregon. They arrived after the long and toilsome journey across the plains, on the 24th day of September in the same year. After looking over various parts of the Willamette valley for lands subject to location under the donation act, the family settled on a donation place consisting of 320 acres of wild land, about 14 miles west of Eugene City, Lane county, Oregon. In 1859, after a new home had been built up in the wilderness and the title to the

donation had been completed, the place was sold, and the family moved to Monroe, in Benton county, where the father, being a wagon-maker, engaged in the manufacture of wagons and in the general merchandise business with his brother, W. C. **WOODCOCK** where M. S. **WOODCOCK** grew to manhood, during which time he attended school and part of the time clerked in his father and uncle's store. In the year 1865 he entered the wagon shop of his father for the purpose of learning the wagon maker's trade, where he worked until January, 1869, and completed learning the trade. About this time the father and uncle having concluded to retire from the merchandise business, sold the stock of goods to the firm of **FOOT & SINSHEIMER**, who conducted the business until the end of March, 1869, when M. S. **WOODCOCK** then not quite twenty years old (being comparatively without financial means, having less than one thousand dollars) bought the stock of goods from them on time, agreeing to pay them for their goods in one year. From then forward he became actively engaged in the general merchandise business turning his exclusive time and attention to the prosecution of that work, but having little capital he labored under such difficulties and disadvantages as all men do who undertake to do a Large and extensive credit business without capital. He carried such embarrassments and difficulties as would naturally arise under such circumstances, and conducted the business successfully and alone, without help, doing all of his own work until the early spring of 1872. By hard labor and constant attention to the store he had gained financially, when he sold a half interest in the store to his uncle, W. C. **WOODCOCK**, and former partner of his father in the same business. After this time the business was greatly enlarged, and in this manner was conducted until March, 1874, when M. S. **WOODCOCK** sold the entire business to his uncle and partner, and on 20 July 1874, he moved to Corvallis, Oregon, where he has ever since resided. While yet engaged in the merchandise business in 1870 he began the study of law and pursued those studies quite regularly, reading at night time after the day's labor in the store was over. After moving to Corvallis he completed the course of law and at the July term of the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon for 1875, was admitted by that tribunal to practice Law in all of the courts of the state, after which he began the practice of his profession at Corvallis. On the first of January, 1877, an opportunity offered as a financial investment in the merchandise business, and he bought the interest of J. R. **BAYLEY** in the hardware, stove and agricultural implement house with Wallace **BALDWIN**, at Corvallis, which house has ever since been conducted under the firm name of **WOODCOCK & BALDWIN**, the latter having the management of the house in detail. In April 1881, M. S. **WOODCOCK** bought an interest in the "Corvallis Gazette", which paper he has up to this time continued as its editor in chief, and practicing law when opportunity offered. On the 8th day of May, 1879, he was married to Miss Emma J. **SIMPSON**, daughter of Rev, Anthony **SIMPSON**, then of Benton county, Oregon. A view of Mr. **WOODCOCK**'s residence in Corvallis appears in this work.

WOODWARD, Hon. Elias--was born in Springfield, Windsor county, Vermont, 29 October 1837, where he resided until 1855, and was educated at the Chester Academy. He then, at 18 years of age, removed to Wisconsin, located in Waukesha county, attended school and afterwards taught for 4 years. In the spring of 1859 he crossed the plains to California, took up his residence near Downieville, Sierra county, and engaged in mining until 1864. At this time Mr. **WOODWARD** came to Oregon, finally located in Benton county on a farm on the Salem road about 6 miles north of Corvallis. He subsequently was engaged in teaching school for 2 years on Soap creek, and afterwards was for a like time attached to the Philomath College and also for a twelve-month in Corvallis. During a great portion of these latter years he was County Superintendent of Schools, serving from 1866 to 1872. In July, 1869, he purchased a one-half interest in the drug store, with which he is now connected, from Mr. **SOUTHER**. In 1880 Mr. **WOODWARD** was elected State Senator from Benton county, an office he filled with much credit. He owns 756 acres of good farming land in the vicinity of Philomath, where he married in June 1869 Miss C. **ALLEN**, a native of Benton county, and a daughter of Hiram **ALLEN**, a pioneer of the state, and has one son named Downie **WOODWARD**.

WRITSMAN, Francis--(deceased). This early pioneer of Benton county, was born in Rutherford county, North Carolina, 10 February 1801. Residing in the Sunny South until 1820 he, with his parents, in that year, moved west to Clay county, Missouri, where he engaged in Farming. In 1832 he was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda **OFFICER**, and removed to North Grand River, and lived for 8 years; then moving to the Platt Purchase in Andrew county. In May 1847, he, with his wife and family of 8 children, started with ox-teams to cross the plains to Oregon, arriving in Benton county some five months later, when he purchased the donation claim of David **STUMP**, in Soap Creek precinct, where he resided, leading a life of usefulness and in the enjoyment of the esteem of his fellow-pioneers until his death, which sad event occurred 18 July 1877. Mr. **WRITSMAN** left a large estate of 1200 acres, a view of which will be found in this history. Mrs. **WRITSMAN**, a venerable old lady, still resides with her son, John, on the old homestead.

WYATT, John E.--this enterprising young farmer of Benton (his native) county, was born 26 January 1846 and is the son of that well known pioneer, Wm. **WYATT**. John E., was educated at Philomath and resided on his father's farm until 1870, when he was united in marriage to Miss Malissa **HENKLE**, when he embarked in farming for himself, an occupation he now follows, 2 miles west of Corvallis. He has a family of 4 children: Rosalie C., Milton A., Lizzie A., and Minnie M.