



PO BOX 1511
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Mid - Valley Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: ED STRATTON

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Today's meeting marks the first anniversary of our move to our new home in the Museum Annex. It has been an eventful year, and much has been accomplished. May we have the same type of year ahead. ED

WELCOME TO YOUR "NEW" LIBRARY!

If you have not visited our library facility since our last membership meeting in June, you are in for a surprise! We have completely reorganized, renumbered, relabeled and reshelfed our 800+ books and hundreds of periodicals, thanks in large part to JEAN GRUBE, DAMARIS REYNOLDS and Your Librarian, with additional help from BETTY SWAN, PAT COOLICAN and LEE RUDISILL (and whoever might have been visiting the library on those Tuesdays throughout most of the summer).

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

I am sure you will be pleased with the new arrangement. Be sure to pick up a handout showing location of subject matter for your reference in addition to a description of what we have in our vertical files and on our newly-organized periodicals/newsletters rack; we have also purchased a great number of new books which have been integrated into the new system. A special thank you goes to JEAN GRUBE for donating a complete set of the Virkus books Compendium of American Genealogy.

A copy of the entire shelf list to date is available for a modest fee of \$2.00. There will be a reference copy in the library. It is not to be removed even to the main room.

WELCOME BACK TO THE MVGS AND
HOPE YOUR SUMMER WAS TERRIFIC!

Your Librarian,

Wendy James

MORE NEW BOOKS

Since the book list was completed there are three new books in the library and at least three more that I don't have the listing on.

The new ones are;

Gone to Missouri
Clay County Missouri Pioneers
Pike County Missouri Pioneers

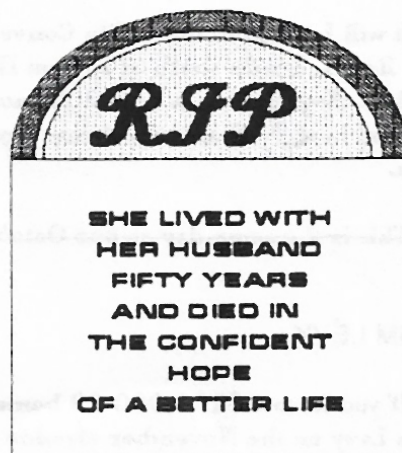
LIBRARY NEEDS

Do you have issue #15 of HERITAGE QUEST (March-April 1988) that you'd be willing to contribute to our library? This is the only issue missing for a complete set.

THANKS

To all of the people that have contributed books to our library this past year. We received books from members and non-members alike.

To all of the people that have helped with the library during the past year, from all of the Board, Thank You



HELP GIVEN

Roland Crosier sent your editor the following information for searchers in Polk county.

Polk Co. Historical Society Publications
751 S.E. Miller Ave.
Dallas OR 97338

Brunk House Open Thurs through Sun all day
5705 Highway 22 and Tuesday 9 to 12 am.
east of Rest Lawn Cemetery

Polk Co. Museum Association
(also Polk Co. Gen Soc)
187 S.W. Court St.
Dallas OR 97338

Both open Mon, Wed & Sat 1 to 4 pm

Heritage Museum
PO Box 7
Independence OR 97351 Tel 838-4989

open Wed & Sat 1 to 5 pm
Thurs & Fri 1 to 4 pm

VISITORS

Our members from Michigan, the Wm. Valenzuela's were here this summer, for the Champoege celebration. While they were here they spent some time with Mabelle Martching. Hope the trip was enjoyable and you got a lot out of it.

COLUMBIA GORGE GEN SOC

The 5th Annual Fall Genealogical Workshop for the Columbia George Genealogical Society will be on Saturday the 19th of October 1992.

It will be held in the Celilo Converter Station Meeting Room, 1 mile south of I84 on Hwy 197, in The Dalles. Registration is \$9.00 for non members. Registration is at 9:00 am and it runs until about 3:00 pm.

~~This is the same day as our October meeting.~~

MUSEUM LEVY

If you have a \$100,000.00 home the Museum Levy on the November election will cost you \$6.50. Please help us to support our Museum. Talk it up with your friends and lets get it passed this time.

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 months, 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 September 25th at 7:00 pm at the Family History Center of the LDS Church on Harrison Ave.

CENSUS FILMS AT FHC

The FHC is getting indefinite loan status on most of the census films that are ordered during this period. If you have any questions on this please contact our President or one of the other volunteers at the FHC.

CONGRATULATIONS CITY GIRL

Charlene Talbot was raised in New York City. When she retired and settled down, she came to Oregon. Before long she became one of us.

This year at the County Fair, Charlene won best in class for her honey. She must have been a country girl all along and was just placed in the wrong location.

Congratulations Charlene, it is nice to have one of us do so well with her labors.

INFORMATION AND OBSERVATIONS

from Roland Crosier

It is very likely that most members of our genealogical society already know this bit of Oregon history. This may be of help to those who do not or may have forgotten it.

Polk county was created 22 Dec 1845 by an act of the Oregon Provisional government. It was partitioned off the south side of Yamhill county which was one of Oregon's original counties. Polk's lines were the Yamhill county south line on the north, California's northern border on the south, the Pacific ocean on the west and a line extending up the Willamette river and on south to the California border on the east.

Benton county was partitioned off of Polk in 1847, a part of Tillamook was partitioned off the northwest corner in 1853 and Lincoln county in 1893.

One should be aware that people who are reported as having lived in any of those three counties at an earlier date may well have been in Polk county before those partitionings and thus might be found in Polk even if they had not moved. Further, our ancestors, even as we do today, were prone to moving about. Often that might have been only a short distance but still into the adjoining county. This is an excellent reason to always look "next door" if one does not find their people in Benton, (or other) counties.

These are same sources one can and should check if looking in Polk:

"Polk County History" book. 260 plus pages of text.
"Historically Speaking" books, Vol. I through 9
"Pioneer Sketches", (a combination of two volumes, 110 pages

The above are for sale by the Polk Co. Historical Society and should also be available at Polk county libraries.

Other places that one might check for information are:

Polk County Museum Assoc. Old Carnegie Library Building, Dallas, OR.

Polk County Genealogical Society, Same location as above.

Heritage Museum, Independence, OR.



INCREASE IN DUES

Those of you that were at the meeting in the spring will remember that we decided to raise the membership dues beginning with the 1993 calendar year.

Your 1993 dues may be paid beginning in September. That means that your dues may be paid from now until the first of the year. The sooner you pay the dues the easier the Treasurer and Membership chair will be able to get their records up to date.

Remember that the dues are now \$6.00 for a single and \$9.00 for a family. This is the first cost increase in our 21 year history.

From time to time as space permits, some of the Colonial Occupations will be listed. These are from various sources.

Colonial Occupations

Colporteur	Peddler of books
Stuffgownsmen	Junior Barrister
Docker	Stevedore
Pettifogger	Shyster Lawyer
Almoner	Giver of Charity
Boniface	Keeper of an inn
Hostler	Groom of horses
Warfinger	Owner of a wharf
Manciple	Steward
Shrieve	Sheriff

WILSON, Bushrod W.--this most popular resident and pioneer of Benton county, was born in Columbia, Washington county, Maine, 18 July 1824, but in 1830, his parents moving to New Brunswick, Middlesex county, New Jersey, he accompanied them thither, to once more move, in 1833, to New York City, where our subject dwelt until June 1840. At this period the family transferred their habitation to Kane county, Illinois, but at the end of a 2 years residence there, Mr. WILSON determined to face the world on his own account. Choosing a sea-faring life he passed the first three years in the North West seas and the coast of Alaska, and altogether was among those "who go down to the sea in ships" for the space of 8 years. In the meantime gold fields had been discovered in California, and to them Mr. WILSON started in 1849, via Cape Horn, landing in San Francisco, 3 July 1850. After a season passed in the mines in October, he came to Oregon, first landing from the brig "Reindeer", at the mouth of the Umpqua river. In the following month he found his way to the Willamette valley, took up a claim 7 miles southwest from where the city of Corvallis now stands, being now owned by Messrs. HENKLE and ARMSTRONG, and engaged in carpentering and contracting, occupations he followed until 1857, when he took up a domicile in Corvallis. Our subject now embarked in the trade of carpenter both at home and abroad, and was the first to put a ferry boat on the Snake river, where since the town of Lewiston has grown. Upon his return to Corvallis he passed the first winter in running a keel boat between that point and Oregon City, on the Willamette; he subsequently engaged in the warehouse and pork packing business which he followed until June, 1864, when he was elected County Clerk of Benton county, and to which office he has ever since been re-elected, an honor that has never elsewhere been experienced by any individual of any political creed. Mr. WILSON has been also actively interested in the railroad to Yaquina Bay, having held the positions of president as well as secretary, while he is also one of the original incorporators of the line. Mr. WILSON has ever identified himself with the welfare of the city of Corvallis: has from time to time served her in a civic capacity; while he has always strenuously maintained a strong and willing fight in the cause of education. As long ago as 1853 he was the County Superintendent of Common Schools; indeed, in whatever walk of life Bush WILSON has trod he has left a fame that should be an example to those that follow after. No more able adviser, courteous official, genial acquaintance, or thorough friend lives than the subject of this sketch. Mr. WILSON is married and has nine children.

WINANT, Capt. James J.--there are few names more indelibly connected with the history of Yaquina Bay than the one that heads this sketch. Capt. WINANT was born in Richmond county, New York, 12 April 1838, where he resided until 1856, when his brother, Mark WINANT, who came to California in 1849, returned to his Eastern home on a visit, and on his return to the Pacific Coast our subject accompanied him arriving in

San Francisco in the fall of the above year. They began the oyster trade in San Francisco Bay and they are the real pioneers of the oyster business on the Pacific Coast; later on they extended their operations to Shoalwater Bay, and then in 1862 or 1863 began the oyster trade on Yaquina Bay. On the completion of the Central Pacific Road they brought from the East several car loads of eastern oysters, planting one car load in the Bay of San Francisco, and the other in Yaquina Bay, from both of which the brothers reap a rich harvest. Capt. WINANT several years ago sold his business, since which time he has followed a sea-faring life and is now one of the most popular Captains from Portland to San Francisco. He married in June 1883, in Alameda county, California, to Miss Amy A. PECK; by this union they have one child, Anita.

WITHAM, Hon. Alfred M.--the reminiscences of the early pioneers of the Pacific Coast must ever possess a peculiar interest for the Oregonian, Green in their memory will ever remain the trials and incidents of early life in this land of golden promise. These pioneers of civilization constitute no ordinary class of adventurers. Resolute ambitions and enduring, looking into the great and possible future of this western slope and possessing the sagacious mind to grasp true conclusions, and the indomitable will to execute just means to attain desired ends, those heroic pioneers, by their subsequent career, have proved that they were equal to the great mission assigned them, that of carrying the real essence of American civilization from their eastern homes and planting it upon the shore of another Ocean. Among the many who have shown their fitness for the tasks assigned them none merit this tribute more fully than the subject of this sketch. Mr. WITHAM was born in Union county, Indiana, 18 September 1822, and resided in his native state until the spring of 1847; he then with one sister, started for the Far West. At St. Joseph, Missouri, he joined a large train of 70 wagons and coming via the Southern route first arrived in Jackson county, but making no delay he pushed on to Benton county and first settled on the place now owned by S. K. BROWN; later on he took up the place now occupied by Sam McCLAIN, near Philomath, and in 1849, pre-empted 640 acres where he now resides, to which he has since added by purchase until he now has one of Benton county's most valuable farms, consisting of 1160 acres, located three miles west of Corvallis. A view of his place will be found in this history. In 1861, Mr. WITHAM was elected to represent Benton county in the State legislature, and, in 1866, was elected to the State Senate, and again, in 1874, Benton and Polk counties did themselves honor in returning him to the Senate as Joint Senator. Mr. WITHAM has retired from the active pursuits of farming after having amassed a fortune, however not gaining it by miserly conduct, nor by oppressing the poor; not by taking advantage of the necessities of his fellow-men but by strict observance to business principles and a careful management of his own affairs. He is married and has a family of 8 children.