



Mid - Valley Genealogical Society

PO BOX 1511
CORVALLIS OR 97339

NEWSLETTER

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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.

ELDERHOSTEL CLASSES

An Ohio genealogy newsletter carried an article alerting people that the President of Elderhostel in Boston is considering the elimination next year of genealogy courses offered by the Elderhostel program. He does not consider them to be in the realm of liberal arts programs.

If you'd like to make your opinion known write to: William D. Berkley, President Elderhostel, 75 Federal St. Boston MA 02110-1941 from Pat Coolican

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	IL, MI, WI, Ireland and Scotland
Jun	IN, 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

CORRECTION

In the April issue, the article titled TOMBSTONE BIRTH DATE needs the following added.

"If the death year is a leap year, use 8871 rather than 8870. If the month previous to the death date had 31 days, use 8869 rather than 8870."
This is from Jean Grube, as the original was.



GOOD-BY DEAR FRIEND

A good friend of the Society and one of the founding members and first President, was taken from us last month.

Velma Parsons died on 3 Aug 1993 at Good Samaritan Hospital. Her obituary was in the 5 Aug 1993 issue of The Gazette Times.

Velma's obit requested that contributions be sent to The Church of The Good Samaritan and to the Mid-Valley Genealogical Society. We have received quite a few contributions, and the book committee has decided to by one very large purchase. I do not have the title now, but you can find out by contacting the Book Committee. Thank you to all of those members, and non-members that contributed in Velma's memory.

Lee Rudisill's columns on the Charter members started in February 1992 and the first one was on Velma. I am rerunning the column now.

VELMA PARSONS

by Lee Rudisill

For my first profile, I wish to re-introduce Velma Parsons to those of you who already know her and to those who have not met Velma. I hope you make an effort to do so.

Velma is a lovely lady, quiet with a ready smile, and very friendly.

There was no genealogical society in Corvallis in 1971 so she and Mary Peffer decided to organize one. At that same time an announcement appeared in the Corvallis Gazette Times asking persons interested in genealogy to meet at the Ritchie Room at the Public Library. Mary and Velma thought this was an excellent idea and there was a small turnout. Erma Lee Brown was present, representing the END OF THE TRAILS headquartered in Lebanon, which was strongly supported by the Lebanon Genealogical Society. Erma offered to help us establish a society.

Mary set up several organizational sessions at the home of Celia Coon and Lotta Chapman and enlisting the help of DAR Members and friends already well-versed in genealogical research. Thus the Mid-Valley Genealogical Society was formed and Velma became the first president. Celia and Lotta had a large pet who showed quite an interest in our meetings.

Velma's interest in Genealogy and family history started in her childhood as she loved to listen to the stories her parents told of their childhood days, and like some of the rest of us she did not write them down.

Velma has researched some of her lines back to the 1600's. Her mother's ancestors came to Virginia from Cornwall, England. Her father came to this country from Northern Ireland when he was 16. Her husband, Tom, has researched one line on his family to the 1600's.

Her advice to you is to get all the information you can from your family, learn as much as you can about the personalities, vocations and interests of your ancestors.

Also when someone writes to you for information, send only what they ask for, as excess material may prove only time consuming and expensive.

Her research has been interrupted for awhile with family activities, but she is looking forward to working on it again.

When you see Velma remember to thank her for the time and effort she put in helping to get this group started.

SHARING

I will take about 45 books on Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont to the November meeting. I will not loan books, but if you want to spend more time, we can arrange a mutually convenient time for you to come to my house.

Damaris Reynolds

FOR THE DECEMBER SALE

Fern Shaffer is making us a handwoven coverlet for the December sale. Remembring how beautiful the first one was, let's get busy and sell lots of tickets, It will be something you will be proud to own or to have your friends or neighbors win. Raffle tickets are available now; you can take a block of tickets to sell, sign for them, and pay for them at a later meeting. Unsold tickets must be returned by the December meeting or you will be charged for them.

The following was received during the summer hiatus for our group. Since this is an important subject it is worth running even if the time is short.

HELP- CEMETERY BEING HELD HOSTAGE

Submitted by Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association

By now many Oregonians are familiar with the problems of the McQuinn Family Pioneer Cemetery on Sauvie Island in Multnomah county. Margie Boulé, in her Oregonian column of 25 Nov 1990, "The family's forbidden island," eloquently related that the graves of this one-acre family grave yard and "the bones of the pioneers that rest in them, have lain in this quiet place ... for 136 years". The GFO's FORUM Insider, Vol. II, No. 6, April 1992, continued the tale of this on-going family cemetery drama.

Briefly, for those who missed the above, the cemetery history is as follows:

1844: Alexander and Rebecca McQuinn arrive in Oregon, later taking up DLC 41 and 50 on Sauvie Island.

1854: Alexander sets aside one acre of land "to remain in perpetuity" as a family burial ground.

1984: Maxine Daly, McQuinn descendant, finally locates family cemetery and begins researching deed records and locating descendants.

1986: McQuinn Family Pioneer Cemetery Assn., (MFPCA), forms with Maxine Daly as first president.

1989: MFPCA encounters problems with land-owners of property surrounding their land-locked cemetery.

1992: Not allowed access to cemetery, MFPCA petitions county for way of necessity. County eventually grants way of necessity allowing MFPCA access across land-owner's property for purposes of visiting and tending family cemetery.

Now, to bring you up to date.

The land-owners have sued the MFPCA and its Board for illegal trespass. Apparently they feel entitled to ownership of the cemetery based on laws of adverse possession.

Unfortunately, while the MFPCA seems clearly in the right, they have been forced by pending litigation to defend their ownership of the cemetery. And, as all who have dealt with our legal system know, justice is neither swift nor cheap. Estimated costs to the MFPCA to go to court are \$10,000.

If you're asking yourself about now just what all this has to do with you, the answer is plenty if you care about Oregon's cemeteries.

Many pioneer cemeteries in Oregon are similarly land-locked with little legal protection and in danger of loss. Our pioneer ancestors chose peaceful, out of the way locations for family burial sites. While other portions of their claims were energetically cultivated for production of crops or livestock, the family graves were quiet spots, separate from fields and homesites, often unsuitable for crops; on slopes, under trees or near water. Even when subsequent land owners purchased these claims, grave sites often remained untouched-- somewhat respected, fairly safe, generally untended. Those times have changed. Many land owners throughout the state feel little or no respect for pioneer burial sites. An acre under cultivation or developed into homesites is far more valuable to them than the historic or sentimental value of a cemetery.

As one of the most highly publicized cases of its kind in recent memory, the plight of the McQuinn Family Pioneer cemetery is certainly well-known. No doubt some abandoned pioneer cemetery land owners are following this case just as closely as the genealogical and historical communities and other cemetery advocates. The fate of the McQuinn Family Pioneer Cemetery could dictate the future of cemeteries throughout the state.

The MFPCA Board of Directors met on 29 May 1993 to decide whether they should relinquish cemetery ownership rather than face the high cost of litigation. Eileen Chamberlin, Genealogical Forum of Oregon President elect, Jeanne Gentry, Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association President, and Norma Eid, 1844 researcher and OHCA Education Chair, attended this meeting to offer their combined support for the MFPCA and its claim to the McQuinn Family Pioneer Cemetery. We are pleased to report that the Board voted unanimously to defend their ownership! Court is scheduled for September 13, 1993, in the Multnomah County Circuit Courthouse.

Now the McQuinn Family Pioneer Cemetery needs your support. Please send any amount you can spare (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$100, whatever) to help support the MFPCA Legal Defense Fund. Your contribution is tax deductible and may help safeguard the future of other Oregon cemeteries.

Please send donations to:

Agnes M. Ewen, MFPCA Treasurer 738 N.E. Floral Pl.
Portland, OR 97232

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LIBRARY BOOKS THIS SUMMER

Number	Area-	Author (s)	Title
989 -	SL -	Schreiner-Yantis-	Genealogical & Local History Books in Print
990 -	SL -	Schreiner-Yantis-	Same. Supplement #2, Vol. 5. Books since 1990.
991 -	KY		Guide to KY Archival and Manuscript Repositories -
992 -	PA -		Pennsylvania Line; A Research Guide to PA Gene & Local History -
993 -	HT -	Jones, etc.	Family History for Fun and Profit -
994 -	FOR -	Gillespie -Gen. & Biog.	Record of Pamela Ford & Simon Deeks -
995 -	NH -	Powers -	Historical Sketches - Coos Country between 1754 & 1785 -
996 -	CT -	Bates -	Hartford, CT Land Records:1639-1688, etc., Vol. I -
997 -	CT -	Bates -	Same, Vol. II -
998 -	MA -	Wakefield-	Plymouth Colony Marriages to 1650 -
999 -	PAT -	Haslam -	Richard Patrick or Partrick of Norwalk, CT -
1001 -	CAM -	Seaver -	Campbell Family History -
1001 -	VA -	Viridin -	Virginia Genealogies & Family Histories-
1012 -	VA -	Peyton -	History of Augusta Vounty, VA -
1003 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 1.
1004 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 2.
1005 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 3.
1006 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 4.
1007 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 5.
1008 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 6.
1009 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 7.
1010 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 8.
1011 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 9.
1012 -	VA -	Dorman -	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 10
1013 -	VA -	Dorman -	Index to The Virginia Genealogist, Vl. 1-20-
1014 -	RW -	NSDAR -	First Supplement to DAR Patriot Index, 1969.
1015 -	RW -	NSDAR -	1982 Supplement to the DAR Patriot index
1016 -	RW -	NSDAR -	The DAR Patriot Index, Vol. 11, 1982 -
1017 -	VA -	Tyler's Quarterly -	Genealogies of Virginia Families, Vol. I -
1018 -	VA -	Tyler's Quarterly -	Genealogies of Virginia Families, Vol. II -
1019 -	VA -	Tyler's Quarterly -	Genealogies of Virginia Families, Vol. III -
1020 -	VA -	Tyler's Quarterly -	Genealogies of Virginia Families, Vol. IV -
1021-	MI-	Carol McGinnis-	Michigan Genealogy; Sources and Resources
1022 -	VA -	Louise P.H. Foley	Early Virginia Families Along the James River
1023 -	OH -	Petta Khouw	County by County in Ohio Genealogy -
1024 -	PA -		Biographical Annals of Lancaster County, PA, V.1, p. 1-473 -
1025 -	PA-		Same, Vol II, p. 473-877 -
1026 -	PA-		Same, Vol. III, p. 877-1193 -
1027 -	PA -		Same, Vol. IV, p. 1199-1524 -
1028 -	GER -	Charles M. Hall -	The Atlantic Bridge to Germany, Vol. VIII -
1029 -			A journal; After Twenty Years -
1030/VF-	IL -	Jim Edgar -	Origin and Evolution of Illinois Counties -
1031 -	KA -	Chase Cty Hist Soc	Historical Sketches of Chase County (Kansas), Vol. 1, 1940 -
1032 -	KA -		Same. Vol II, 1948 -
1033 -	KA -		Same, Vol. IV, 1984 -

OREGON TRAIL CELEBRATION

MVGS shared a booth with the Benton County Historical Society and the Quilters' Guild as part of the Oregon Trail Celebration on June 26 during the Oregon Folklife Festival at Starker Arts Park, Corvallis. Centerpiece of our exhibit was a collection of materials gathered by Valerie Nichols about her husbands' Applegate ancestry. MVGS members working the booth were Becky Kiger, Valerie, Joanne Perry, Charles Sartwell, Betty Swan, and Mary Yoke.

