

1990 - 1999

Mid-Valley Genealogical Society

in 1996 became

Benton County Genealogical Society

**Officers and Appointed Positions
and names of others who have
served our society**

CHARTER MEMBERS -- 1971
MID-VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
[NOTE: This listing made in June 1990.]

A-01 -- Elizabeth AKIN
A-02 -- Margery AKINS
A-03 -- Ruth ARNOLD.....Deceased

B-01 -- Lois BAKER
B-02 -- Hazel A. BEALS
B-03 -- Eugene "Mitch" M. BEARD
B-04 -- Maxine BELL
B-05 -- Gladys BIERMAN
B-06 -- Ruby E. BOYES
B-07 -- Leona BRANDENBURG
B-08 -- Ednah BRECKON
B-09 -- John BRECKON.....Deceased
B-10 -- Merle BRITTEN
B-11 -- Erma Lee BROWN
B-12 -- Marjorie BURIANEK

C-01 -- Lotta CHAPMAN
C-02 -- Celia W. COON

D-01 -- Addie DYAL

F-01 -- Stanley FARWELL.....Deceased
F-02 -- Joel D. FOSDICK
F-03 -- Margaret "Jill" FOSDICK

G-01 -- Aaron GLASGOW

H-01 -- Harley HASKIN
H-02 -- Helen HASKIN
H-03 -- Mildred Blair HAWKINS
H-04 -- Carla HEALY
H-05 -- Elaine HECKART
H-06 -- Mrs. J.W. HOLBROOK
H-07 -- Edith N. HUGHES

J-01 -- Clara J. JANS

L-01 -- Veva LARGE
L-02 -- Alene LEWIS

M-01 -- Peggy MASON.....Deceased
M-02 -- Edith MILLER
M-03 -- John MILLER
M-04 -- Ruth MOTLEY
M-05 -- Bessie G. MURPHY
M-06 -- Frances MILNE
M-07 -- Harriet L. MOORE

P-01 -- Rex PALMER.....Deceased
P-02 -- Velma PARSONS
P-03 -- Mary PEFFER.....Deceased
P-04 -- -- Norma

PENNINGTON

MVGS -- CHARTER MEMBERS (1971): Page 2:

R-01 -- Bernice ROBISON
R-02 -- James H. RUSSELL

S-01 -- Louis ST.DENNIS
S-02 -- Donna SOULE

T-01 -- Ysabel THOMAS.....Deceased

V-01 -- Jean VANDERPOOL

W-01 -- Glenn WARE.....Deceased

W-02 -- Billee Snead WEBB
W-03 -- Edna E. WIESE
W-04 -- Marjorie WINK
W-05 -- Gene WESTFALL
W-06 -- Harriette WESTFALL
W-07 -- Elizabeth "Betty" WILSON
W-08 -- Mrs. Edward WINN

Z-01 -- Debora Jo ZADINA
Z-02 -- Josephine ZADINA

1990-1999 Mid-Valley/Benton County Genealogical Society Notebook
Containing society meeting and board minutes

1990 Nominated Officers

Meeting Location is First Christian Church

President _____ Ed Stratton
1st Vice President ___ Lee Rudisill Assisted by Becky Kiger and Jane Dodge
2nd Vice President ___ Damaris Reynolds Assistant Fern Shaffer
Secretary _____ Mary Yoke
Treasurer _____ Zyra Kahl
Librarian _____ Betty Swan

Committees:

Queries _____ Mabelle Martsching
Projects _____ Becky Kiger (cemetery project)
Labels _____ Audrey Broadley (Flav-R-Pack labels)
Merchandising _____ Dan Froelich
Book Committee ___ Charles Dodge & Sheila Madden
Surname Files _____ Danell Aukerman
Correspondence _____ Mabelle Martsching
Membership _____ Jean Grube
Thrift Shop _____ Damaris Reynolds
Heritage Quest _____ Dan Froelich

New Members:

Janice Barkley, Mary Dean Snelling, Dick Milligan, Ken Bielman

Programs for the year include:

Ken Munford – The Lake County Connection
Tour of OSU Library
Ted Gump was Christmas auctioneer

Edna Wiese

Keeping family histories alive

By Wendy Fisher
Gazette-Times reporter

Edna Wiese's enthusiasm for genealogy is contagious. Just ask her students. At last count, six had nominated her as a person who makes a difference.

Her soft voice rises and she talks faster as she tells stories of her family history and of when her students discover theirs. By the time she's done, the listeners want to jump up and discover their own family history.

Wiese recently retired from teaching a "Write Your Life Story" class at Linn-Benton Community College. She taught the class for 10 years, but worsening arthritis and a light stroke in December were the factors in her retirement decision.

She said it means more to her than anything that the students continue pursuing their heritage. Many of them took Wiese's class for five to six years in their effort to create their genealogy books.

She said she tells the students to be sensitive, discreet and truthful with their stories. Whether bad or good stories, if they don't write them down they will be lost forever, she said.

Putting that history into books is "the icing on the cake," she said.

The students' ages range from 30 to 90. Because they usually share stories with each other, the class becomes one big family, said Wiese. Through sharing they begin to know each other personally and they "have a great compassion for each other," she said.

And she herself has received a "tremendous" education from listening to the various stories. Students from China, Europe and large U.S. cities have taught Wiese the histories and cultures of those areas.

Wiese became a genealogy buff in the days when it was only names, dates and places. But she said she cares more to it than that. She used to take her mother from their 314-



David Grubbs/Gazette-Times

Edna Wiese of Corvallis helps people gather information about their family's history and arrange it in book form, like the volume she has in front of her.

acre farm outside Corvallis to visit relatives in town. Here she listened to stories about her an-

cestors, including her great-grandfather who moved to Oregon in 1847.

The Nominator

"She is a fair, tolerant and wise teacher. An inspiration to of us."

— Mariellen Harj

Biography

■ **NAME:** Edna Wiese.

■ **AGE:** 67.

■ **ADDRESS:** 1036 N.W. Fillmore St., No. 17, Corvallis.

■ **OCCUPATION:** Retired in 1990 as a high school teacher and community college teacher since 1946.

■ **YEARS IN CORVALLIS/BENTON COUNTY:** Lifelong.

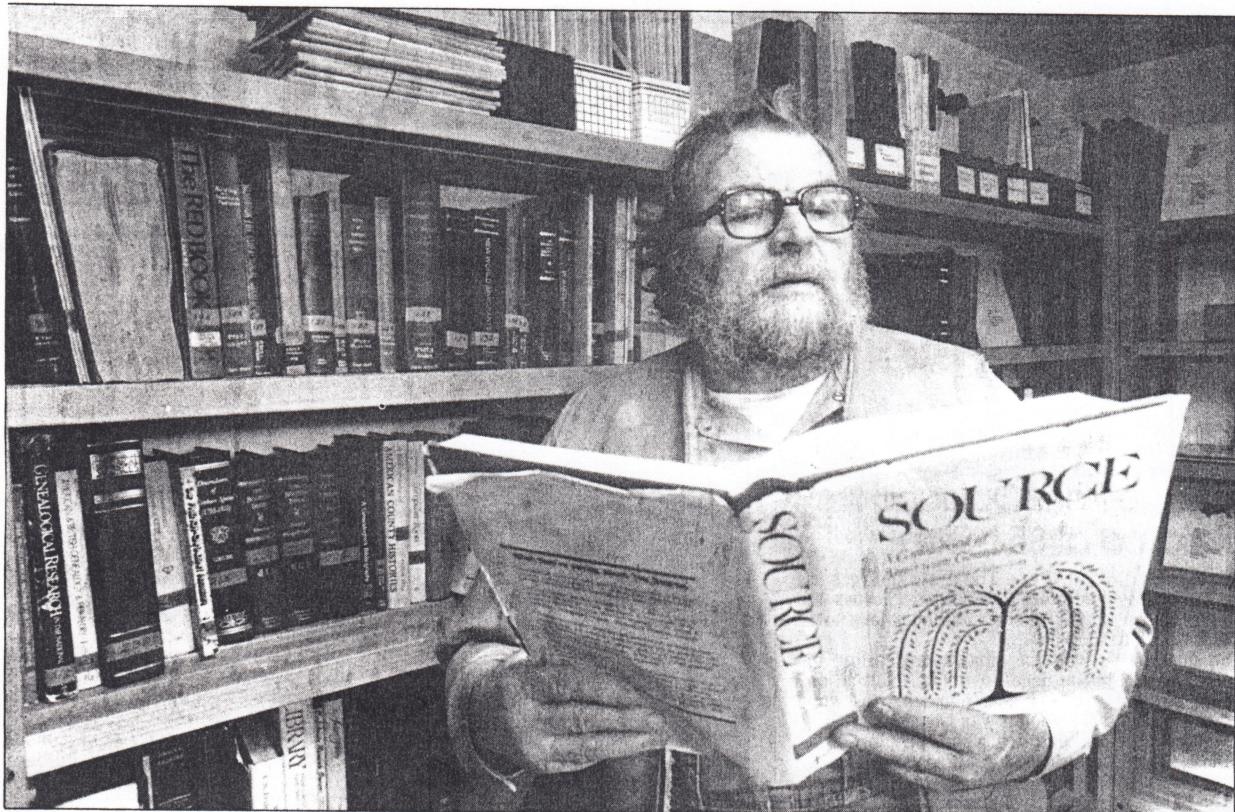
■ **FAMILY MEMBERS:** No immediate family, one sister.

■ **AFFILIATIONS:** Mid-valley Genealogical Society, Benton County Historical Society, American Association of Retiree Persons.

Wiese compiled her own genealogy in an 8-inch-thick book filled with original photos of Corvallis and her family in the early 1900s. She also made a balsawood replica of her great-grandfather's farm, complete with thumb-sized barrels of flour and sugar, inch-long tools, a carved ham, beds and other items.

Wiese said she does what she does because "I feel it's an important record." Put it away and your children will thank you, she said.

As for being a good teacher, she said the students bring out the best in a teacher. "It's been wonderful education, and it's been a wonderful experience," she said.



David Grubbs/Gazette-Times

Ed Stratton of Philomath, editor of the Mid-Valley Genealogical Society's newsletter, searches through a book at the society's new library. It is now located in the Benton County Historical Museum Annex.

Genealogical group gets roots

Club finds home with Benton County Historical Museum

Genealogical group gets roots

Club finds home with Benton County Historical Museum

By Julie Wind

Gazette-Times reporter 10-23-1991

At a glance

People looking for clues about where they came from can use the library at Mid-Valley Genealogical Society's new home.

"Everyone wants to find a king in their background, but what I want is to find the one who robbed the king," joked Ed Stratton, newsletter editor and past president of the society.

"Finding a highwayman is what would make me happy."

Stratton, 56, got interested in discovering his past in 1955 while stationed in Mississippi in the U.S. Air Force.

A book salesman ("like fleas on a dog down there") sold him a Bible with green leaves in the middle for a family tree. Stratton realized he didn't have enough family information to fill in the blanks, so he began to search for his ancestors.

"I found out that my grandfather, John, came out on the orphan trains from New York City to Indiana," he said.

"We're all cousins if you go a few generations back."

Curiosity about past relatives and past history drives many of the 87 members of the genealogical society, formed 20 years ago by Velma Parsons and Mary Pepper.

The society originally met at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, and then

■ **WHAT:** Mid-Valley Genealogical Society.

■ **WHEN:** Meetings on the second Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; society library open each Tuesday, 12:30 to 3 p.m.

■ **WHERE:** Benton County Historical Museum Annex, 1047 Main St., Philomath.

■ **DUES:** \$4 per year for individual membership; \$6 per year for a family.

■ **INFORMATION:** Call Jean Grube, 758-7618, or Mabelle Martsching, 752-5898, or write the society at P.O. Box 1511, Corvallis, Ore. 97339.

at the First Christian Church in Corvallis.

Stratton said the society began looking for a permanent home about three years ago. The Benton County Historical Museum in Philomath offered its annex to the society, which moved into a room there in August.

Currently, members of the society are indexing all death notices and obituaries printed in Gazette-Times forerunners, The

Gazette and The Times, since 1865. All newspapers between 1865 and 1979 are on microfilm at the museum.

Stratton will put all of this information on a database on his home computer.

"It will be a slow process that could easily take years, depending on how many people work on it," said Bill Lewis, director of the museum. "The theory is that people looking for an ancestor will be able to enter a name, and the index will show the date and page of the newspaper where the obituary was printed."

Lewis said people come to the museum each week looking for information on ancestors. The museum maintains a library of Benton County history and people.

The Genealogical Society's library has about 550 volumes on immigration records, regional histories and registers. It also maintains family pedigrees, books of lists of people buried in Benton County cemeteries and a book listing everyone living in Benton County during the 1910 census.

Members meet each month to work on projects and hear programs on genealogical topics, such as how-to-do-it. The genealogical society is open each Tuesday to anyone interested in doing research.

Members are planning a public informational meeting to teach people how to get started in genealogy. The date of that meeting has not been announced.

1990 - 1999 Mid-Valley/Benton County Genealogical Society Notebook

Containing society meeting and board minutes

Officers for 1991

President _____ Daniel Froehlich
1st Vice President _____ Lee Rudisill
2nd Vice President _____ Damaris Reynolds, Assistant Hostess ___ Joy Read
Treasurer _____ Darrell Kahl
Secretary _____ Janice Barclay

Committees:

Librarian _____ Joanne Perry
Book Committee ___ Sheila Madden
Queries _____ Mabelle Martsching
Service Projects/Cemetery Survey ___ Becky Kiger
Membership _____ Jean Grube
Merchandising _____ Betty Swan
Newsletter _____ Ed Stratton
Scrapbook _____ Virginia Hoeye
Label Collection ___ Audrey Beardsley
Thrift Shop _____ Damaris Reynolds
National Archive Rental _____ Mary Yoke
Surnames _____ Danell Aukerman/Roland Crosiar
Publicity _____ Mitch Beard
Building Committee/Nominating Committee ___ Lee Rudisill

1991 September:

First meeting in new quarters in the Benton County Historical Museum Annex.
Damaris set up the kitchen with coffee pot and utensils.
The first order of business was to furnish the new library with shelves.

Events:

Began publishing Benton County Cemetery books this year. Oaklawn Cemetery is not finished due to bad weather.

Indexing early GT Newspapers began in 1991.

The Benton County Historical Museum gave our society old reels of microfilm containing old GT newspapers. The plan is to list all obituaries and births and make a computer list. Volunteers are needed to sign up for this newspaper project

Raising Dues:

A proposal to raise dues from \$4 to \$6 for individual membership and family dues from \$6 to \$9 was discussed. Dues were raised in September 1993 for the first time.

1991 Programs:

May 1991, Gerald and Connie Lenzen spoke about GFO and National Conferences in Portland.

1991, Danell Aukerman presented a program on preserving photos and other genealogical artifacts.

1991 October, Judy Juntunen presented a program on the history of Benton County including anecdotes and old pictures.

Field trip to east Salem to the LDS Family History Library

“Beginning Genealogy Class” for new members planning committee: Damaris Reynolds, Ed Stratton, Becky Kiger, Jean Grube scheduled for April as a workshop.

Information is from “1990 through Dec 1992 BCGS Notebook” of minutes.

1990 - 1999 Mid-Valley/Benton County Genealogical Society Notebook

Containing society meeting and board minutes

January 1992

There are now 675 books in our "new" library in the Annex next door to the Benton County Historical Museum. By September the number of books increased to 800.

Officers for 1992

President _____	Daniel Froehlich
1 st Vice President _____	Opal Katzky (moved in Feb) Lee Rudisill
2 nd Vice President _____	Joy Read (Hostess and Public relations)
Secretary _____	Janice Barclay
Treasurer _____	Darrell Kahl
Librarian _____	Wendy James

Committees:

Book Chairman _____	Damaris Reynolds
Membership _____	Ken Bielman
Library Volunteers "staffing" _____	Sandra Ihrig
Surname Files _____	Ed Stratton
Queries _____	Ed Stratton
Service Projects -Cemetery _____	Rebecca Kiger
Thrift Shop _____	Damaris Reynolds
Newsletter _____	Ed Stratton
Merchandising _____	Jean Grube

Beginner's Class:

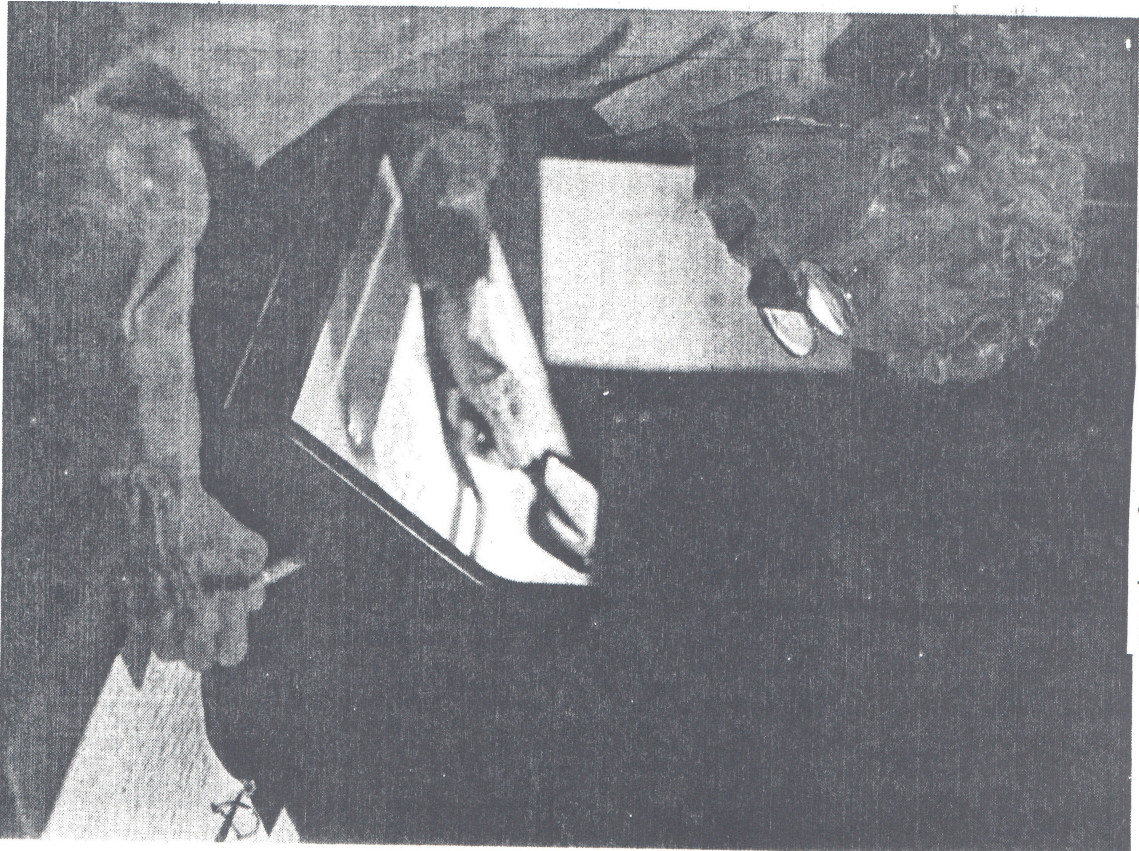
The class for beginning genealogists will be held in April and limited to 30 students. Classes will be held in the Annex.

Programs:

Slide show by Judy Juntunen on colonial Williamsburg.
Valerie Nichols presented a program on Quaker Ancestry.
A program on Indian legends of local tribes.
Janice Barclay showed slides and talked about her trip to Scotland.
The Confederated Tribe of Siletz—Past and Present by Alfred Lane.

Memberships: 95 single and 15 family members

Information and newspaper articles found in the 1990 - 1992 minutes Notebook.



RECORDING the names of those found in old Gazette-Times obituaries is Philomath resident Charlene Talbot.

Genealogical society combs G-T microfilm for obituaries

Project to aid others in ancestry searches

By BONNIE BURNETT and JOHN HENDERER of the Bulletin

PHILOMATH — Over 100 years of births and deaths in Benton County will someday be catalogued to aid those researching their family histories.

At least those births and deaths that were reported in the newspaper, that is.

The Gazette-Times in Corvallis recently donated microfilm covering the years from 1868 to 1979 of their newspaper to the Benton County Historical Museum in Philomath. The microfilm includes records of the paper when it was the Corvallis Union.

"Realizing what a wealth of information was in them, and responding to the needs of researchers who come in here, we thought it was important to get some rudimentary information indexed," said the museum's director Bill Lewis. For people trying to trace their families' histories, a good lead can be a copy of an obituary, he explained.

Volunteers from the Mid-Valley Genealogical Society are "adopting" rolls of the microfilm and scanning it page by page for information regarding births and deaths.

"It's kind of addicting. You think, well I'll just drop in for an hour or two," said Charlene Talbot, a Philomath woman who has spent many hours on the project, especially during the winter. Winter rains keep her from working in her yard anyway, she said.

The work can slow down as people get involved in reading the old news articles. Scanning the old papers, they come across many interesting tidbits of information on

life in Benton County in years past.

Talbot said Corvallis was apparently very much in competition with the neighboring city of Albany. In one paper it was noted that Corvallis had 35 autos — two less than its rival.

"They're always talking about the train going to Newport," she added.

Apparently drunks were a problem on these train rides because officials were threatening that the "next time" they found any drunks on the train they would be thrown off.

One news article included the following: "Tom Brown and A.R. McCall engaged in a fistcuff in front of the Farmer's Hotel Sunday."

Another mentioned, "Mrs. Smith died in Alsea." It didn't give a more specific name or even a date, Talbot said, dumbfounded.

The obituaries were also written a bit differently than they are today. One stated that the deceased "passed over the dark river to the great beyond."

Adding to difficulty indexing the obituaries is a very different pattern of page layout. The pages look rather similar to the Wall Street Journal and are vertical, with headings usually only one column wide. The early papers didn't have obituaries in a regular area, so the rolls must be carefully examined for any mention of the events.

Talbot marvelled at the people she sometimes finds in the obituaries and how closely tied they are to famous events in history.

See SEARCH, page 4

Continued from Benton Bulletin Aug. 13, 1992, with Charlene Talbot
Searching G-T microfilm for obituaries as Genealogy Society project.

Search

from page 1

One Henry Gerber (Oct. 12, 1828 - Dec. 4, 1920) of Corvallis was said to have come from "fighting ancestors ... and was allied to a long line of warriors by marriage. His father having been a soldier under Napoleon at the battle of Leipsic, while his wife's father served with Marquis Lafayette in the revolutionary war, and her two uncles were with Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo."

Talbot is involved in writing herself and finds the work at the museum very satisfying. While she now writes children's books, she has written romance novels in the past.

"I've hunted for some of my ancestors, and maybe it will accomplish what other people have done for me," she said. "This sort of thing is being done all over the country."

Volunteers record the information in a book to be catalogued in a computer data base by local volunteer Ed Stratton.

"It's a long term project," Stratton said. He estimated it might take up to 10 years to complete. The data base will eventually be available on the museum's computer and people can just enter a name to find if there's any information on that person.

It can take a lot of digging for a small clue, he said. And Stratton should know. He began researching his family in 1955 and "wasted 10 years" until he found someone who explained to him how to go about it. He has researched his wife's mother's family to 1630 in England and a couple of lines on his own mother's side to 1708. But he's got a real stickler with one grandfather who came west on an orphan train, he said.

The Genealogical Society has 120 members, some across the country who have ties to this area. Stratton belongs to a similar group in Indiana to obtain some research help on one of his family lines.

The Society meets the second Saturday of every month from September to June in the museum's annex. Meetings include several hours of research, a business meeting and a program that often is presented by a member returned from a research trip. The group's rapidly growing library of information is open in the annex on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. The first visit is free, the group requests a donation of \$1 per visit after that.

The newspaper cataloguing is not the first project the group has initiated. Volunteers from the Society have also walked through the local cemeteries, jotting down the names on tombstones. They have published five spiral bound books and a history of the cemeteries.

THE BENTON COUNTY NEWSPAPER PROJECT

One of the aims of the Benton County Genealogical Society has been to help genealogists who may have had ancestors in Benton County by making local information available. The newspaper project has been in the works for more than ten years now, and this seems like a good time to publish an update.

The project started when the Gazette Times gave the Historical Society 32 microfilm reels of the old Benton County newspapers, with a cabinet to hold them. The first paper was the Corvallis Gazette, a weekly, beginning in April 1865. The Society had just finished listing grave markers in all the Benton County cemeteries and was looking around for a new project. It was decided to abstract deaths, births, and marriages from reels covering the time period from 1865 through September, 1926. A form for entering the information was made, the reels given numbers, and a sign-up sheet to adopt a reel was sent around at meetings for those who thought it might be fun to read through old newspapers. There are still blanks on this sign-up sheet so no current members need feel left out!

The public library in Corvallis and the Oregon State University library also have these films and microfilm readers, so they can be access there, too. Parking is probably easiest at the Museum in Philomath.

Abstractions are entered chronologically. More than half of the reels have been adopted; many of these have been completed. An alphabetized computer list is then made. Currently we are working on Addendum Three. Copies of the list are made for the Museum, the Corvallis/Benton County library, and the Society library. Copies have also been made for several individuals who answer requests for lookups.

The current status of the project is as follows:

The Oregon Union, 9 Jul 1897 to 17 Feb 1899 - Rebecca Kiger/Dave Kribs, DONE
The Corvallis Gazette, 22 Apr 1865 to 26 Aug 1881 - Jean Grube, DONE
The Corvallis Gazette, 16 Aug 1881 to 21 Feb 1890 - Gene Newcomb
The Corvallis Gazette, 21 Feb 1890 to 19 Mar 1896 - Dave Kribs
The Corvallis Gazette, 19 Mar 1896 to 10 Feb 1899 - Daniel Froehlich
The Corvallis Union 1899 to 1902 - Dean Johnson
The Corvallis Gazette, 11 Nov 1902 to 8 Aug 1905 - Betty Swan
The Corvallis Gazette, 8 Aug 1905 to 25 Jun 1909 - Frances Grotefend
The Weekly Gazette Times, 7 Feb 1909 to 10 May 1912 - Charlene Talbot
The Weekly Gazette Times, 5 May 1912 to 16 Jul 1915 - Sandra Potter
The Weekly Gazette Times, 16 Jul 1915 to 27 Jun 1918 - _____
The Weekly Gazette Times, 27 Jun 1918 to 30 Dec 1920 - Esther Forsythe
The Gazette Times, 1 Jan 1910 to 13 May 1911 - Charlene Talbot, DONE
The Daily Gazette Times, 13 May 1911 to 21 Dec 1912 - _____
The Daily Gazette Times, 21 Dec 1912 to 5 Feb 1914 - Charlene Talbot, DONE
The Daily Gazette Times, 2 Feb 1914 to 16 Feb 1915 - _____
The Daily Gazette Times, 16 Feb 1915 to 19 Feb 1916 - Geralyn Barry
The Daily Gazette Times, 19 Feb 1916 to 22 Feb 1917 - Rebecca Kiger/Mary Yoke
The Daily Gazette Times, 22 Feb 1917 to 1 Mar 1918 - Cecelia Anderson, DONE
The Daily Gazette Times, 1 Mar 1918 to 19 Feb 1919 - Mary Yoke, DONE
The Daily Gazette Times, 19 Feb 1919 to 27 Dec 1919 - Emily Dashiel
The Daily Gazette Times, 27 Dec 1919 to 30 Sep 1920 - Ken Bielman, DONE
The Daily Gazette Times, 1 Oct 1920 to 18 Jun 1921 - _____
The Daily Gazette Times, 18 Jun 1921 to 23 Jan 1922 - Mary Yoke, DONE
The Corvallis Gazette Times, 23 Jan 1922 to 22 Aug 1922 - _____
The Corvallis Gazette Times, 8 Aug 1922 to 14 Apr 1923 - Cecelia Anderson, DONE
The Corvallis Gazette Times, 4 Apr 1923 to 11 Jun 1923 - Robert Tarrant, DONE
The Corvallis Gazette Times, 11 Jun 1923 to 24 May 1924 - Leila Crawford
The Corvallis Gazette Times, 24 May 1924 to 22 Dec 1924 - Ken Bielman, DONE
The Corvallis Gazette Times, 22 Dec 1924 to 24 Jul 1925 - Ken Bielman
The Corvallis Gazette Times, 24 Jul 1925 to 3 Mar 1926 - _____
The Corvallis Gazette Times, 2 Mar 1926 to 25 Sep 1926 - _____

From the April 2002 BCGS Newsletter



Weston J. Becker/Gazette-Times

Jean Grube, left, Damaris Reynolds, and Rebecca Kiger, right, inspect an historic headstone in the Oddfellows Cemetery on Witham Hill Drive. The three Corvallis women have compiled a book of names from headstones in Benton County cemeteries.

Group surveys cemeteries

By Wendy Fisher
Gazette-Times reporter

Every Wednesday volunteers from the Mid-Valley Genealogical Society meet in one of Benton County's 24 cemeteries or five private family plots.

What they've discovered already has filled four books that list more than 12,000 people buried in the county. Also among the finds have been the headstone of a former slave and numerous lively epitaphs.

The goal of the four-year venture is to establish a record of buried local residents and ease the search of people looking for clues to their own family histories.

In addition to recording the names and epitaphs, the group has made pencil and paper rubbings of headstone designs in each cemetery.

"We really enjoyed it," said Rebecca Kiger, a volunteer headstone recorder.

Volunteers found the slave headstone in

Another said, "Now I'm not lost, I know where I'm going."

the Oddfellows Cemetery on Northwest Witham Hill Drive. They subsequently studied the history of the woman and discovered a controversy over whether she was really a slave. The headstone also lists the wrong family as her "owners," said volunteer Damaris Reynolds.

The group also has compared the headstones to caretakers' records, which sometimes tell the cause of death, said another volunteer, Jean Grube.

Among those who died in the 1800s are a few people whose cause of death is listed as "whiskey heart," Grube said.

Several of the headstones date back to

the 1700s.

Some of the epitaphs also were interesting, Grube said.

On one headstone was written, "She did what she could." Another said, "Now I'm not lost, I know where I'm going."

Kiger said the fifth book is almost complete but they still have to record Oaklawn Cemetery on Southwest Whiteside Drive. That will likely take them until June because Oaklawn is the largest cemetery in the county.

The books include brief histories of each cemetery and an alphabetical listing of those buried there and where their plots are located.

Among the five books is a separate one of military burials.

The society chose the effort as one of its community service projects.

And to make a little money for the society, Grube said. But so far, sales have been slow.

Group Surveys Cemeteries

by Wendy Fisher - Gazette-Times reporter

Photo caption:

Jean Grube, left, Damaris Reynolds, and Rebecca Kiger, right inspect an historic headstone in the Oddfellows Cemetery on Whtham Hill Drive. The three Corvallis women have compiled a book of names from headstones in Benton County cemeteries.

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Volunteers found the slave headstone in the Oddfellows Cemetery on Northwest Witham Hill Drive. They subsequently studied the history of the woman and discovered a controversy over whether she was really a slave. The headstone also lists the wrong family as her "owners," said volunteer Damaris Reynolds.

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Tuesday, June 2, 1992, Corvallis Gazette-Times, Corvallis Ore.

History awards

The Benton County Historical Society was pleased to present two History Maker awards this year.

The Mid-Valley Genealogical Society received one for their work in researching, recording and publishing information about Benton County's cemeteries, an example of their commitment to preserve the county's heritage. Five volumes of "Benton County Cemetery Records and Tombstone Inscriptions" have been completed. For each enumerated cemetery, there is a record of the burials and a brief history, and each volume lists the meaning of many gravestone symbols, and how to do stone rubbings.

Many MVGS members worked on the project, but five people deserve special recognition: Becky Kiger, Jean Grube, Damaris Reynolds, Lee Rudisill, and Valerie Nichols.

Gazette-Times' columnist Kenneth Munford received an award for his continuing interest, effort and support in preserving Benton County's heritage.

To really understand the community, residents need to know something about the area's history and the people who made that history. For nine years Ken has provided a window into the past through his weekly column on the Senior news page. Fortunately, you don't have to be a senior to enjoy history, and Ken's following is definitely intergenerational.

In addition, Ken is involved in efforts to preserve and protect the county's heritage through his work on the Courthouse Preservation Committee and World War II 50th anniversary activities, com-

memorating Camp Adair and the men who served there.

Benton County is fortunate to have such dedicated people who care about preserving its history.

Judy Rycraft Juntunen
Assistant director, Benton County
Historical Society/Museum

1990s Continued in Part 5