

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

APRIL
February 2000

Volume ¹⁵ Fourteen
Number ~~Fourteen~~

April 8 Meeting

There will be several choices for members attending this meeting. A video entitled Advanced Research by Dr. Arline Eakle will be shown. For those who are not interested in the video there will be a selection of discussion groups including one on computers and using the Internet, one on New England research, and one on Civil War Research. Program chairman Bill Gleaves urges everyone to bring information or questions on these topics to share.

The program for May will be Professor Brauner discussing Ft. Hoskins and the Civil War period in Oregon.

UNDERSTANDING LAND RECORDS

In 1785 the Continental Congress developed a system of describing land for legal purposes. The system is generally known as the "Township and Range Survey System." All territory that wasn't already inhabited was surveyed by this system. This includes all Public Domain States. The system paid little attention to the natural contours and features of the land. Instead it is as though someone places a giant grid over the land and all parcels were recorded according to where they fell on the grid. The initial point on this system was determined by astronomical observation and from these a meridian and a base line was formed.

A principal meridian runs through the point from north to south, and a base line (that is, a line parallel to the equator) runs through the point from east to west. Because of the curvature of the planet, additional lines called guide meridians are run every 24 miles east and west of the principal meridians, and standard parallels are run every 24 miles north and south of the base lines. These guide meridians and standard parallels are also known as guide lines.

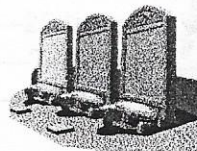
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KITH AND KIN BY CHARLENE TALBOT

We enjoyed these messages on the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness list so much that we thought you might, too.

"I want to relate a success story. Last October I spoke on the phone with an uncle who was very ill. He talked about wishing to see his first wife's grave. I thought I would try to get a photograph of her tombstone and send it to him. I had already signed up as a volunteer for Random Acts, so I knew of the site. I found a volunteer there who was willing to take photos of the exact cemetery where my aunt was buried. I e-mailed her, and she graciously said she would. The next day we got the sad news that my uncle passed away. However, through my uncle's death, I reconnected with his son, my cousin. He lived with my family for a time when I was just a baby. He remembered me 'like a little sister.' My cousin had not seen his mother's grave since he was very young. I sent him the photos. Since then, through another cousin, I've located a photo of his parents. My cousin and his family are amazed at seeing the family resemblance. He and I are now going to meet in April for the first time in 20 years. Also, we were able to find my aunt's sister (now 85 years old) in a distant city. I sent her copies of the photos as well. She was overjoyed. So I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the wonderful Random Acts Volunteer." Welland, Ontario, Canada.

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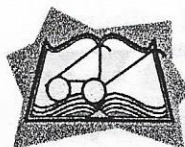
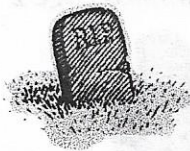


Kith and Kin continued

"Hi, I'm a volunteer in Maine. I recently had a request to find Fred Noonan's parents, who were supposedly born in Maine. Fred was the navigator for Amelia Earhart. There were bones found on an island in the South Pacific and we can now do DNA testing, but only on a female descendant ... for some reason. Fred was married twice, but in all the books I researched, no mention of a child. This means we would have to locate other females related to him. We need people in the Miami, Florida, area to help out. Anyone willing to pursue this?"

"I live in Indiana. I was researching my husband's ancestors in Kentucky so we bought quite a few census books, etc. After I was done with my research, I decided to volunteer look-ups for others using our books. That was so rewarding, that when I ran across this 'Random Acts' site I signed up. For several months I got no requests. Then I got six within a two-week period. The requests were for copies of census records, obituaries, photos of graves or at least information about burials. I took a day off work and took all the requests with me to the county historical society, which contains a genealogical library. I had never been there before, and, boy, was I impressed! They have so much material! I was able to find something for everyone except one person. I had such fun that day!"

"I also have had only two requests, but I've used Random Acts myself. I asked a volunteer in Kansas City to search for my husband's father's obituary. My husband's parents divorced when he was very young. The volunteer found the information I was seeking so desperately. It gave me the info I needed to find a sister. I contacted her, and with her help I sent for her father's Social Security Application or the SS-5. Boy, am I lucky! He got his SS card at age 60. Within 30 days I had found 11 sets of grandparents! All my thanks to Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. By the way, my husband said I would never find anything about his family in a million years. Hah!" Rupert, Idaho



NEW BOOKS

These are the new books purchased by the BCGS this month.

Jean Grube, Librarian

- #1831 – First Census of Kentucky, 1790, by Charles B. Heinemann
- #1832 – Pennsylvania Genealogical Library Guide, by John W. Heisey
- #1833 – Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas, by Josiah H. Shinn
- #1834 – Index to Alabama Wills: 1808-1870, by Alabama DAR
- #1835 – Genealogy on CD-Rom, by Marthe Arends
- #1836 – CD – American Genealogical Biographical Index, from Ancestry
- #1837 – CD – National Genealogical Quarterly, Vols. 1-85, from FTM
- No number – Your Family Tree – a Magazine of Western Pennsylvania and Surrounding Areas, Volumes I & II

A DEFINITION

RESEARCH is what you start doing
When no one alive remembers,
No one has written a book,
And no one has posted a gedcom.

*thanks to Charlene Talbot
from GEN-UNSOLVED-MYSTERY*



A REMINDER

The Society's spring garage sale will be held at Jean Grube's home on May 20. Anyone with things to donate can contact Jean or Damaris Reynolds. It is not too early to start collecting items to be sold. Remember, we do not accept clothing since it does not sell well. It can be taken to the OSU Thrift Shop where our number is 492.

Jean and Damaris will also be happy to sign up helpers who will be willing to work on the day of the sale.

AN OBITUARY

(Not having received an obituary from our faithful correspondent and researcher, Mabelle Martsch-ing, I am using this one of my husband's grandfather written by James Burnett. It is a good example of the florid style popular in the 1800's. JB)

Another Pioneer Gone

Died at his residence 12 miles south of Corvallis, on the 15th inst., (1892) James E. Barclay. He was born in Boone County, Missouri, August 4th, 1827, where he grew to manhood on a farm. In May, 1846 he enlisted in the 3rd regiment of Missouri Volunteers and served 18 months in the Mexican war in the celebrated Doniphan regiment. When the war closed he returned to his home and plow. In the spring of 1850 he and his brother William and family crossed the plains to Oregon, spending the first winter in Polk county. In the spring of 1851 he came to Benton county and took up a donation claim, upon which he resided to the time of his death. In 1855 he enlisted as a volunteer in the Indian war in Capt. Munson's company and took part in the campaign at Walla Walla and in Eastern Oregon and Washington, returning to his home in 1856. On June 7th, 1877, he was married to Mrs. Mary W. Herron, who survives him, together with three children, one son and two daughters, the issue of said marriage. The writer of this brief sketch had been acquainted with "Uncle Sib", as he was familiarly called by his neighbors, for 34 years and I can truthfully say that in all that goes to make up an honest, upright, honorable man, a good citizen, a kind and obliging neighbor and true friend, he was the peer of any man in the county. If he had an enemy I don't know it, and the esteem in which he was held by his neighbors was attested by the largest funeral procession ever seen in this county, which followed in mournful silence his remains to their final resting place in Monroe cemetery, where, after a few timely and feeling remarks by Rev. Taylor, he was laid to rest by the Monroe lodge of Masons, of which he was a member, with the beautiful and impressive Masonic burial service. Many who are unused to weep, shed tears on the grave of this big-hearted, brave, generous man.

In the life of our departed friend there is much to respect and to admire; we find him, when a youth, responding to the call of his country and enlisting in her service, following the stars and stripes through the roar and smoke of battle, valorous and brave, ready to lay down his life, if necessary, in the service of his country, to vindicate her honor and her flag. Again, when he had reached manhood's estate, we see him taking up the long weary march across the unexplored plains to seek a home in Oregon, actuated by a spirit of adventure and a desire to build a home of his own in the far west. After reaching Oregon and settling on a donation land claim, the gift of that government he had served so well in the American war, he was again called upon to take up arms in defense of the women and children in Eastern Oregon and Washington; to guard and save them from the ruthless savages, who were threatening to exterminate the white settlers, and were murdering the women and children and burning their houses over their heads; right nobly did he, with others who are still living in this county respond to the call. *(The piece goes on for another column for which there is no space.)*

Understanding Land Records continued

Each township is divided into 36 sections one mile square (640 acres). These are set out by running through the townships lines parallel to the southern and eastern edges, at intervals of one mile. The 36 sections are numbered sequentially from the northeast corner, proceeding westward alternately through the township.

Sections are the smallest tracts the law requires to be surveyed, but further subdivisions are made by dividing sections into quarters (160 acres). These are called the northeast quarter, northwest quarter, and so on.

Quarter quarters (40 acres) along those boundaries are given lot numbers, such as Lot 2, Section 5, Township 4 2 North, Range 12 East.

1 Mile———5280 feet

1 chain———100 links/66 feet

1 Rod———25 links/16 1/2 feet

1 Link———7-7/8 Inches

1 Pole ———16 1/2 Feet



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy Muschler
Ellen Hathaway
Kathryn Honey
Tonya Rawie

We now have a total of 128 members
(26 of these are family memberships.)

Membership Information

President	David Kribs	929-6079
	cdkribs@pioneer.net	
1st Vice Pres	Bill Gleaves	929-4087
2nd Vice Pres	Charlene Talbot	929-6079
Secretary	Teri Greene	
	mmteriaproaxis.com	
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb	929-5715
	newcombg@bec.orst.edu	
Librarian	Jean Grube	758-7618
	Ken Bielman	758-3769
Membership	Leila Crawford	753-4153
	leila@peak.org	
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Burt	424-3021
	dgbert@pioneer.net	
	Janice Barclay	847-5610
	jbarc@pioneer.net	

Dues are \$10.00 single and \$13.00 family per calendar year.
Dues paid after September 1st are credited to next year.

Web page URL <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbentgs/>

Canadian Interest Group

The Canadian Interest Group is for those searching for their roots in Canada. The April meeting will be Wednesday, April 12, Albany Public Library, 12:30-3:30. The May meeting will be Wednesday, May 17, same room, same time. 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, for further info.

E-mail: sprawlinson@proaxis.com

Odds And Ends

Our number at the OSU Thriftshop on Second Street in Corvallis is 492.

Please keep your Santiam and Flav-R-Pak labels coming in to the Library. There is a plastic sack in the library to keep them in. Leila Crawford is in charge of the label program. All you need is the UPC Symbol from the label. Be sure that you leave some area around the label when you tear it off.

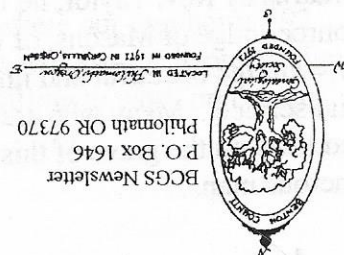
More Member Info

Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of September through June, in the NE Dining Hall of the College United Methodist Church, on the east side of the parking lot, in the 1100 block of Philomath. Business meeting is at 10:00 a.m. with the program at 11:00 a.m.

Our Library, in the museum annex, is open to members and visitors on meeting days from 12:00 noon, or when the program is over until 3:00 p.m. IF we can keep enough volunteer librarians, it will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 p.m.

Members in good standing may check out and return books any time the li-

Mailing Label Coding
The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:
S=Single, F=Family, E=Exchange.
Number is last of year, 8=1998
L0 is Charter Honorary Life Member



Stamp