

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

February 2000

Volume ¹⁵ ~~Fourteen~~
Number Two

FEBRUARY 12TH MEETING

Will feature Kori McDonald speaking about the Spanish flu epidemic 1910 – 1920. She is interested in collecting information on the impact of the epidemic in the local area and is inviting members to bring information on deaths attributed to the flu among their ancestors.

Plans for the March meeting are not finalized but program chairman Bill Gleaves is talking about holding a genealogy forum using a panel of members and inviting other members to ask questions and make comments. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

BENTON COUNTY MARRIAGE RECORDS

by Lee Gentemann

In the process of researching my Benton county ancestors, I ran into many dead-ends in searching for marriage records. There are a number of problems that each of us has encountered, and will be faced with in the future, until we eventually convert to one combined index for both bride and groom, and we correct as many of the name errors as possible. Another frustration has been that there is no state-wide marriage index for Oregon prior to 1906, and there is a gap in it from 1925 to 1946.

The marriage records at the courthouse are only indexed by the groom's name, and there are numerous spelling errors in the index that occurred when the clerk was unable to read the writing on the marriage document, or that person wrote the name incorrectly. In many cases, the bride or groom was unable to spell so the official performing the marriage ceremony, guessed at the spelling.

After complaining about the problem for some time, it was suggested that I make a book of marriages from Benton county records and try to correct the problems. After visiting with a few people about it, I did decide to take on the project with the help of two other members and with the willingness of the Oregon

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KITH AND KIN

BY CHARLENE TALBOT

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

This is the title of a new web site sponsored by Rootsweb. Volunteers are listed for a good many counties in a good many states. Most of them seemed to be offering to take photographs of gravestones for people who would like to have them, but there were offers to obtain obituaries, too.

Thinking about it, we realized that we ourselves had been the recipient of at least three random acts of genealogical kindness. One was when we wrote a letter to a free shopping newspaper in Indiana. We had a reply from a woman who said that the person we were interested in was her grandmother, but at the same time, another reply came from another woman who copied out the obituaries of Anna B. Newman King and her husband. The typist didn't include any explanation as to why she chose to do it, but we were certainly grateful.

Incidentally, if you are into writing queries, there is a nifty little paperback book in our Society library that lists all the genealogy columns in various states. We wrote a number of letters a few years back and had two successes, which we considered a worthwhile percentage. For the enclosure of a return envelope, the editors were good about sending copies of the pertinent column, too. Our second act of kindness came in return from a letter we mailed randomly to a person of the same name listed in a telephone book in New Albany, Indiana. She was

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KITH AND Kin continued

no relation, but she telephoned long distance, and later sent a photocopy of the wedding certificate of the person we were interested in.

The third act of kindness came as a result (we think) of a query we put on the Sullivan County, Indiana, web site. Someone from the county historical society sent two handwritten pages of marriages, deaths, and births of anyone in the county named Parish. Again, no name or message from the sender. But much appreciated!

INVITATION to Guest Columnists: If anyone has something they would like to write about, please feel free to do so. We are not running out of ideas (yet) but if anyone has something we genealogists would enjoy, don't hesitate. Charlene Talbot, 602 S. 15th, Philomath, Or 97370 or e-mail it to cdkribs@pioneer.net. Or phone. We're in the book and also on the Society's list of members.

LOST LORE TIDBIT: Our president, David Kribs, was at National Guard camp last weekend at Camp Rilea. The Commandant talked about plans to mark the bicentennial in 2005 of the Lewis & Clark Expedition by putting up some kind of replica of Fort Clatsop (even though the National Park's replica is just down the road). Anyway, the commandant said they were puzzling over whether to peel the bark off the logs or leave it on. Colonel Kribs remembered his grandfather telling him that people left the bark on the first winter, shelter being the primary aim, and caulked the chinks with mud and straw the following winter, or whenever the bark fell off. Seems totally logical—once you think of it.

Louis A. Southworth

by Judy Juntunen

(In the last issue, this editor printed some misinformation about the renaming of the creek in Lincoln County. Sorry! Here is the correct story thanks to Judy.)

Recently the Oregon Geographic Names Board changed the name of Darkey Creek in Lincoln County to Southworth Creek. The creek was named for Louis A. Southworth, an African American who homesteaded near the mouth of this stream that empties into Alsea Bay.

Southworth's 87 years were a record of overcoming adversities and great accomplishments. He was born in Tennessee; his parents were Louis and Pauline Hunter. According to Southworth, he was given the surname of "the boss," his master, James Southworth. He came to Marysville, Oregon (now Corvallis) with his master and his mother in 1851, his father had died of smallpox in 1850. After about a year, Southworth moved to a farm near Monroe. He recounted, "Times were so hard that my master moved on the place with me. But I soon saw that we could not live there without help from the outside. I promised my master to go to Jacksonville mine for gold." James Southworth agreed and Louis left for the gold fields, with the understanding that the money he made would help purchase his freedom. He continued, "After an absence of about eight months, I returned with about \$300 which I gave him. Then at different times I sent him dabs of

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HUMOR

Genealogical Observations

Genealogists never die, they just lose their census.

Genealogists live in the past lane.

Genealogy: chasing your tale.

Genealogists are time unravelers.

Genealogy is where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.

He ain't heavy — He's my brother's aunt's sister's husband.

I finally got it all together. Now where did I put it???

*from Southern California Genealogical Society
and family Research*

MARRIAGE RECORDS continued

State Archives to allow me to take up many hours of printing time on their microfilm readers.

Currently, the project is scheduled to cover the years 1851 through 1945. I'm estimating that there will be 10,000 marriages recorded in that time frame and we will divide those records into two books which the Benton County Genealogical Society will publish for sale. Hopefully we'll be able to make these books available for sale early in 2001. We will also make these same records available on the Benton County USGenWeb internet pages for which I am currently the County Coordinator.

In an effort to minimize errors, we are going through several steps. I'm printing all of the Benton county marriage certificates from microfilm at the Oregon State Archives. I take those copies home and write on them my interpretation of the names and dates, and make a list of certificates that were not microfilmed, or that might have some better information available in the county record books in the courthouse. When there is a questionable name, I cross check against the Benton County Cemeteries books and several other resources, as well as occasionally checking census records. After I complete quite a few (500 – 1000), I send the certificates to Linda VanOrden in Junction City and she goes through each of them and approves or corrects what I had written. Linda forwards those same certificates to Ellen Hathaway in Cottage Grove, who enters the information into a database and at the same time is proof reading the results from Linda and me. When Ellen is finished, she sends me a copy of the updated database and I proof read her data entry.

We currently have 4600 marriages entered in the database and 1200 certificates stacked by my desk undergoing the transcribing step. In a week or two, I'll send them along to Linda for phase two. The holidays brought a little lull to the process but we're getting into the swing again.



AN OBITUARY

DR. L. B. BALDWIN DIES SUDDENLY TODAY

Professor Laurin Burtin Baldwin, for more than forty years an instructor in English at Oregon State college died this morning in a local hospital.

Mr. Baldwin was the son of Burton and Emma Crum Baldwin and was born at Wascon, Ohio, November 24, 1869. He attended Ohio schools and was graduated from the Tri State Normal at Augola, Indiana and Hartsville college in that state. In 1890 he came to Oregon where he was graduated from Philomath college. Professor Baldwin then continued his education by attending Chicago university and later the University of California at Berkeley. He later also studied at the University of Oregon.

In 1906, Professor Baldwin became associated with the teaching staff at Oregon State college and had just completed his forty-first year. He was retired this spring in reward for his years of service in the English department. He was married to Clara Metcalfe, at the home of her parents near Lodi, California, December 29, 1893.

Professor Baldwin was a member of the United Brethren church of Portland and served his denomination as a minister in Indiana, Illinois and eastern Washington.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Clara Metcalfe Baldwin; three sons, Neil Baldwin, St. Louis, Missouri; Ayne Baldwin, Portland, and Weir Baldwin, Seattle, Washington. There are eleven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements, under direction of the De-Moss-Britt Funeral Home, will be announced later.

from the Gazette-Times, June 12, 1947

researched by Mabelle Martsching

FOR HOSKINS RESEARCHERS

The Benton County Historical Museum has recently obtained the original school district records of the Hoskins School from 1902 to 1942. (the Hoskins and Kings Valley schools merged in 1942.) These records list the students by name and age. Their parents names (only in certain years), visitors to the school, and miscellaneous comments about some of the pupils. There are some minutes of school board meetings in the earlier years. If you want to look at these records, call the Museum first to set up an appointment so that someone will be there who can help you find what you want.

by Ken Bielman



SOUTHWORTH continued

dust...varying from \$50 to \$100, through John Heiss, who was helping me earn my freedom. My master did not like the idea of freedom for me, so he suggested that I send money through another man. Complying with his request, I sent him \$250... But my master's agent squandered the money on women and whiskey. I always thought this was a good joke on my master, inasmuch as I compelled him to count in this amount in settling for my freedom." Southworth purchased his freedom by the time he was 28 years old. In all, he paid his master \$1000.

He fought in the Rogue River Indian Wars (1853-1856) with no compensation. It was either fight or give up his gun. As he told it, "guns were necessary in travelling through Indian country. So I bought me a fine rifle that I prized very highly. But at Roseburg I met a company of volunteers under Colonel John Kelsay (from Benton County) on their way to the Rogue River war. Because rifles were very scarce in those times, the soldier threatened to take the gun away from me. Thereupon Colonel Kelsay said I could keep the gun if I would go along...Feeling as if I could not part with my gun, which was the only means of defense I had, I joined the company. During the war I was wounded, but was carried off the field and my life was saved by Major Bruce (also from Benton County) who was brave to the core." When he returned from the war, Southworth hoped to establish a home for his mother, but she died before he did.

In 1858 after her death, Southworth went to the gold fields in northern California and taught violin and played for dancing schools in Yreka "because I made more money that way than I could by mining." He sent his master \$400 "to complete my ransom," but he never received any legal document that stated he was free.

He continued to travel to various gold strikes always playing his violin and even bought a few shares in the Comstock lode in "hopes of becoming a millionaire." In 1868 he moved to Buena Vista in Polk County where he did blacksmithing. It was here that the principal of the Buena Vista academy taught him to read and write. He joined the Victoria Lodge of the Masons at San Francisco since there was no African-American lodge in Portland. He also married Maria Collins who had an adopted son. He settled near Alsea Bay in 1880 in hopes that the coastal climate would improve her health. When she died in 1901, he brought her to Corvallis, and she was buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery. Two years after her death he married Josephine Jackson of Portland, but little is known of that marriage. In his later years, Southworth moved to Corvallis where he was well-known and well-liked. Shortly before his death, friends paid the remaining \$300 mortgage on his house.

In an interview in July 1915, Southworth said, "Am a member of the Oregon Pioneer Association, which I attended two years ago. Was brought up a Baptist, but the brethren would not stand for my fiddle, which was about all the company I had at the time. So I told them to keep me in the church with my fiddle if they could, but to turn me out if they must for I could not think of parting with the fiddle..."

June 24, 1917 Louis Southworth, former slave, died Aged 87 years in Corvallis, leaving many friends.



MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW YEAR

Life Members	8
Single Memberships	65
Family Memberships	<u>22</u>
Total Members	97

New Member: Sharon Osborn Ryan

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
	newcomb@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
	dgburt@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. This group meets the third Tuesday of each month, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. 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, for further info.

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

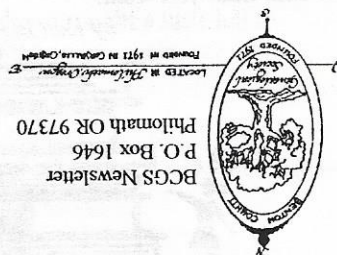
Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of September through June, in the NE Dining Hall of the College United Methodist Church, on the east side of the parking lot, in the 1100 block of Philomath. Business meeting is at 10:00 a.m. with the program at 11:00 a.m.

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 library is open.

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Number is last of year, 8=1998
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