

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

Volume Thirteen
Number Twelve

January, 1999

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Program for January 9

The program for Saturday, January 9, will feature Larry Landis, of the Oregon State University Archives, who will give a presentation on "Using the OSU Archives for Historical/ Genealogical Research," according to program chairman Ken Bielman.



For Computer Users

Here's a list of new online databases that appeared in 1998 that might be of interest:

- *Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books on Ancestry.com
- *Some of the U.S. General Land Records on the General Land Office's web site
- *GenealogyLibrary.com, a collection of many genealogy books, produced by Broderbund (soon to be a part of Mattel)
- *Heritage Books Archives, numerous genealogy books that were published by Heritage Books, Inc.
- *Scottish Birth and Marriage Records, 1553 to 1897 on the Scottish General Records Office site
- *Online Register of British and Commonwealth War Dead
- *1921 Newfoundland Census (partially completed with additions being made frequently)
- +Tasmanian Genealogy Index

GENEALOGY CLASSES

Danell Aukerman is offering three genealogy classes this term as follows:

* Intermediate genealogy begins Tuesday, January 5, 7-9 pm at Corvallis High School. The class will be open to new members through the 12th.

*Beginning genealogy will start on Monday, January 25, 7-10 pm at Corvallis High School.

*A one-day class on using the internet will be held Saturday, February 20 from 9 to 4 at the Benton Center.

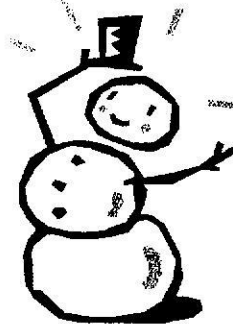
A Reminder

Dues for 1999 are now due. If you would like your name to appear on the membership list, they need to be paid by January 31.

Also, this is the last issue of the newsletter that you will receive if they are not paid. You can check the Mailing Label Coding to be sure you have paid.

Did you know that the dues we pay cover \$500 per year in rent for the Library, \$200 per month for the meeting room and \$90 per month for photocopying and mailing this newsletter.

Books are purchased with money raised by the Christmas Auction, garage sale and donations.



EXPERIENCES OF A UNION SOLDIER IN THE CIVIL WAR

(Oscar Wheeler, father of Al Wheeler of South Benton County, was a boy of 15 when he enlisted in the Northern army.)

Comrades and Friends:

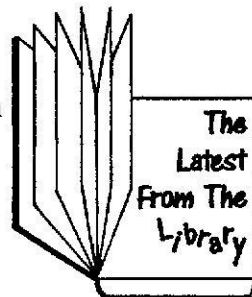
The task assigned me for this occasion is a most disagreeable one. For over twenty years I have been trying to forget as much as possible of the horrors of the seven months I spent in Andersonville and Florence. I have always avoided the thoughts of it as much as possible and have always refused to speak of it or read anything connected with the subject, so that my memory has dimmed in a measure and as I am not much used to public speaking, I shall ask your indulgence.

If I should fail to interest you as much as you may have expected, the subject is one to which neither tongue or pen can do justice and I shall only attempt to give you a few personal recollections and as I have nothing but a rather poor memory to guide me, I may not be very exact as to dates. Names I shall not attempt to give for the reason that most of the unfortunate were known only by nicknames or by the name of their regiment or state.

It was my misfortune to be one of the few skirmishers left as a blind on the night of the seventh of May, 1864, with orders to hold the enemy in check as long as possible and then fall back to our outpost. During the night Grant moved a corp from right to left, and of course abandoned us to our fate and, altho it was a military necessity and perfectly justifiable, it was nevertheless hard on us. We managed to hold our own till about the middle of the next day when we were attacked in force by a part of Wade Hampton's Legion, who dismounted in our front and forced us soon to fall back for support and the first suspicion we were abandoned came to us with the yells of the rebels in our ears. In a very short time they were heard on each flank. It was in vain that we tried to cut our way out and we were soon forced to surrender and found ourselves prisoners of war. Even then we were very far from realizing our situation, but the most of us got a pretty fair understanding of it in a few days.

After we were disarmed we were searched for concealed weapons. Many of the boys had revolvers and of course I was one of the lucky ones having a fine silver mounted Smith and Wesson. I had fired my last cartridge so it was empty. I sincerely hoped the Reb who got it might shoot his own head off with first shot he fired, but it had to go.

As soon as they had secured our weapons, we were marched to the rear of their command and went into camp for the Rebs to get supper. We were mostly without rations and got our first lesson in rebel hospitality. We were crowded into an old log barn and kept there till about ten at night when the Rebs saddled up and forming us in the center, marched off in the darkness for Gordonsville. Meanwhile, two of our number who had tasted the delights



Atlantic Bridge to Germany, Vol. X
by Hall & Woods

CD: Family Tree Maker's Marriage Index,
Missouri 1851 - 1900

The Primal Families of the Yellow Creek
Valley (Dickson, Houston and
Montgomery Counties, Tennessee)

New book lists are now available in the library
The price is \$2.50. See Jean Grube, Librarian

of captivity before went around among us and waned us to make the most desperate efforts to escape during the night march for it would be our last chance and they were going to escape before morning or die trying.

It was not long before we came to one of the small rivers of the region which we crossed on a log. The water was about four feet deep. The Rebs rode in on each side as close as possible and with cocked revolver in one hand and drawn sabre in the other it would seem as though the chance to get out was slim, nevertheless we were not half across when there was the sound of two quick plunges and the two old prisoners were gone. We never saw them again and I trust they got back to our lines.

We marched all night and about an hour after daylight we reached the rear of Lee's army at Gordonsville and halted for a short time and got our first rations, about a teacupful of flour without salt or fire to cook it with but we were thankful for the flour, for by this time we were getting hungry. After getting rations we were marched to the railroad and loaded in and onto a lot of old box cars. We were hardly loaded and the train was not all made up when with a rush and a chur, a column of Union Cavalry with a section of light artillery came over the hill within easy range and opened fire on the engine but though they knocked off the sand box and bell and stove, a hole or two in the smoke stack, they did not succeed in stopping us. Of course, I was one of the forward ones, having secured a front seat on the top of the second car. We did not stop to couple the last of the train but left with little ceremony. Our speed was such that the swaying of the cars broke the studding of several of them and frightened two of the guards so that they jumped from the top of the flying train and seemed to lose their interest in our affairs. From that time on our grief was not excessive. Whether the ones that were left were recaptured by the cavalry or not I never learned but presume they were.

Our next stopping place was Lynchburg, Virginia, and here we got a treat. I whole hardtack each. Here, too, we got acquainted with the home guard for the first time, and now we began to reach the merits of the case and to realize fully the joys of life in the sunny south. I will say here, that the home guard is as much worse than the fighting men of the army as it is possible to imagine. We got little real abuse from the old soldiers whom we met and several times when told of our condition, they shared their rations with us, once in defiance of the guard who cocked their muskets and threatened to shoot the first one that gave us a mouthful. It was like putting fire to tow: every old soldier who could get near enough emptied his haversack among us.

to be continued



Census Taking

April 1 was not always the Census day. An age found on a federal census record is supposed to be the age of that person on the census day date – even if the census taker took the census before or after that date.

Census dates were:

From 1790 – 1820, 1st Mon in Aug.

From 1830 – 1900, June 1

In 1910, April 15

In 1920, June 1st

From 1930 – 1970, April 1

BENTON COUNTY LAND RECORDS

Yesterday, June 27, 1998, I went to the Benton County land records office and obtained the copies of portions of Nahum KING'S land-record indexes and also a copy of the 1855 Govt. Survey map—the portion showing Wren and the area where Nahum King's donation land claim was located.

Before 1855, people in Benton Co. could live on the land and simply agree with their neighbors about property lines. In 1855 the government made an official survey. Benton County Public Works sells copies of the original survey map and that's where I got this. I've determined that if one stood on the line between Sections 20 and 29, where the Mary's River crossed and headed north and looked 51 degrees true north, he would see Mr. King's home.

The office also had a book stating that DAR members had seen two sandstone (tufa) markers on the uphill side of Nahum's home. The lettering on the stones was already worn off but the stones were known to mark the graves of Nahum and his wife, Sarepta. This was in the 1940's. The DAR wanted to set a memorial near the stones stating that the graves were located there but the Dept. of Transportation refused to allow this. The graves were too close to the right-of-way off Highway 20. Therefore, in 1951 the DAR put the memorial stone they had planned to place at the site of the older markers in the Kings Valley Cemetery. That memorial is now displayed at the bottom portion of the Pioneer section of the cemetery.

The DAR memorial is confusing to visitors at Kings Valley Cemetery because it states that Nahum and Sarepta King "are buried near this spot." Today most people do not know the story of why the memorial stone was placed at the cemetery. When the DAR memorial marker was made, it was thought that it would be placed close to the original stones on Nahum and Sarepta King's property.

The Hemphill family now owns the property and they have looked for the graves but could find them. To find this farm, if one is traveling west on Highway 20, downhill from Wren, they will come to a point where the Mary's River crosses under the highway. A graveled little driveway becomes fairly steep. It continues around some trees, then heads downhill toward an old barn and some farm equipment.

by Daniel Lewis Frommherz

KINSHIP CONNECTIONS

Am I more kin to my half-brother than to my double cousin? Here is a quick review of the shared genetic material you have with your family. There are some surprising kinship connections here.

The percentage of DNA you share with commonly found relatives (% kinship) - or how kin are you to a relative is as follows:

100% to an identical twin, triplet, etc. or clone

50% to parents, children, brothers, sisters

25% grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, double cousins, half-brothers, half-sisters

12.5% great-grandparents, great-grandchildren, first cousins, granduncles/aunts/nieces/nephews, double first cousins once removed.

6.25% great-great-grandparents, great-great-grandchildren, first cousins once removed, great-granduncles/aunts/nieces/nephews, double second cousins

3.125% g-g-g-grandparents, g-g-granduncles/aunts/nieces/nephews, first cousins twice removed, second cousins, double first cousins three times removed, double second cousins once removed

Jerry Merritt in Roots-L

DATE CALCULATIONS

Would you like to be able to figure birth dates when all you have is the death date, such as grave markers that give the date of death and then say something like "71 years, 4 months and 14 days"? There is an easy way to calculate the birth date.

Put the death date in numerical indicies as follows:

August 25, 1867 = 1867 8 25

Then take the "year, month, day" information and put under that indicies as follows:

1867 8 25

- 71 4 14 and subtract each column normally.

This gives you 1796 4 11 or April 14, 1796.

If the "year, month, day" information is larger than the date of death indicies then: (in the same example but with year, month and day as 71 years 10 months 28 days)

1867 8 25

- 71 10 28

You have to convert the year to 1866 by subtracting 12 months, then add that to 8 to get 20 months, then subtract 1 month from the months and add (always) 30 days to 25 to get 55 days. Then subtract normally to get:

1795 10 27 or November 27, 1795.

This will always work as long as you remember that all months for this process are set as 30 day months. It doesn't matter what month you wind up with, it will always be correct.

Del Huggins, in Roots-L

New Members

Current members: 175

Members who have renewed for
1999: 74

Membership Information

President	David Kribs	929-6079
1st Vice Pres	Ken Bielman	758-3769
2nd Vice Pres	Charlene Talbot	929-6079
Secretary	Terri Greene	929-6347
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb	929-5715
Librarian	Jean Grube	758-7618
Membership	Leila Crawford	929-5935
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Burt	
	dgburt@pioneer.net	424-3021
	Janice Barclay	
	Jbare@pioneer.net	847-5610

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/>

The Benton County Genealogical Society will buy your used genealogy CDs for 1/2 their purchase price! CDs will be placed in our collection. After you've used it, sell it to us!

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

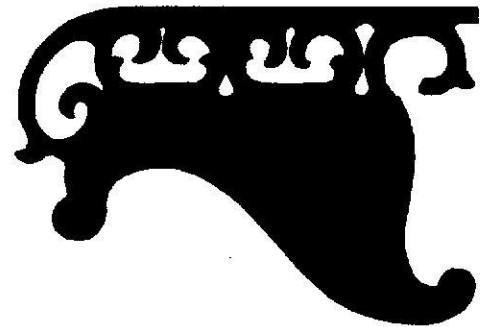
Our number at the OSU Thriftshop on Second Street in Corvallis is 492. Please keep your Santiam and Flav-R-Pak labels coming in to the Library. There is a plastic sack in the library to keep them in. Leila Crawford is in charge of the label program. All you need is the UPC Symbol from the label. Be sure 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.

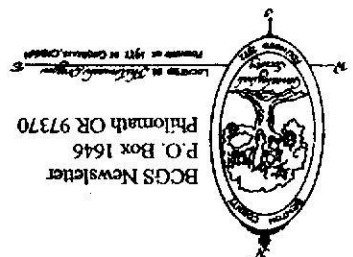
Our Library, in the museum annex, is open to members and visitors on meeting days from 12:00 noon, or when the program is over until 3:00 p.m. IF we can keep enough volunteer librarians, it will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 p.m.

Members in good standing may check out up to five books and return books any time the library is open.



The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:
S=Single, F=Family, E=Exchange
Number is last digit of last year dues paid: 9=1999
LO is Charter Honorary Life Member

Mailing Label Coding



Stamp