

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

November 2000

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Number Eight

Program November 11th: Auction and Social Hour

Put Saturday, November 11 on your calendar for our annual "Christmas" auction and sale. Yes, it is Veteran's Day, but come anyway. Suggested are handmade articles or Christmas goodies such as breads or anything you want to bring. Come and participate in the spirited bidding. It's fun, and you might solve some of your Christmas gift problems. Remember, it's to raise money to buy more books and CD's. Each person is also asked to bring cookies or snacks for the social hour. Extra cookies will be sold.

The raffle will be held at the December meeting when the program will be on writing your history. Raffle tickets are available at the meeting or in the library at a dollar apiece or six for five dollars. So far, the prizes are a ladies elegant holiday sweater and a beautiful inlaid wooden box from the talented hands of John Martsching. We would like more contributions.

Genealogy Today

I got the following email from a friend. It does show how times have changed and people have stayed the same. I've had similar experiences myself, especially in small towns. I guess big city cabbies are just like the rest of us. -ED

"I had a very interesting day. I was in Pittsburgh for a meeting and on the way to the airport saw the exit for Beaver. I had a long wait (It turned into 10 hours) so I asked a cab driver how far and how much to go to North Beaver Township and look for Mt. Jackson Cemetery. He didn't really know but said he wouldn't charge me more than \$100. Maybe not the best use of that money, but I'll probably never be back there. Anyway, he was a great guy. He got on his cell phone and called his friends who lived in that area. One of them got on the internet and found the exit. We drove right into Mt. Jackson, a little town in North Beaver Township, and there on the right was an old cemetery.

We walked around for about 30 minutes and he seemed just as interested as I was in looking at the names. Many of the stones are broken or eroded so you can't read them, but it was great just standing where I think they probably stood. The driver had a polaroid camera in the car and he took a couple of pictures of the cemetery.

Anyway, I thought I'd share that little bit with you."

Kith and Kin

By Charlene Talbot

OREGON LOGGING CAMP MEMORIES

by David Kribs

When I was born in 1937, my parents were living in one of the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company's logging camps. The buildings were strong wooden "shacks" that could be moved when the camp moved; dragged to the rail line by Caterpillar tractors, loaded onto the company's railroad cars by the log loader, and taken to the next place. There the process was reversed. Though times were changing, railroads were still the most economical way to transport massive logs. And with undependable cars and poor roads, most loggers still lived in the camps.

One of my early memories is of Dad bringing home Hershey bars and putting them up on the overhead 2x4's for "later." I spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to get up there. Next, he would pump up and light the Coleman lantern. Along with the fragrance of pine pitch, the smell of kerosene was everywhere. Kerosene was used for lanterns, camp stoves, and to lubricate the many saws. Power saws were coming into use, though many of the men wouldn't use them. The camp shacks were about 12 feet x 22. Two shacks were placed side by side, one for the kitchen and living room, the other for bedrooms. Out back was the outhouse.

It was cold in the winter where the camps were located, as much as 30 below at times. Speed was required, not only because of the cold, but because of the nighttime monsters.

My father soon moved us to a farm outside of Bend but my uncle and aunt elected to stay on and my brother and I frequently visited them. There were dozens of children to play with. School was held in a passenger railroad car, and we attended Sunday School there when we visited. My aunt ran the library -- a camp shack with shelves full of children's books. That shack was eventually donated to the town of Sisters and became the first Sisters library.

Scotty Lowe and his wife ran the camp store and the bunkhouse for the single men. Scotty's trick was to gather a group of kids around him. He was an excellent story teller, all the while whittling away. "Well, I'm done," he'd say at the end, "Where can I keep this knife? Oh, here's a place!"

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And he'd stick it in his leg. Unbeknownst to the uninitiated, his leg was wooden. I still remember my awe. My pressing thought was, What will his mother do to him for cutting his pants!

At the final camp at Sisters a water system, bathrooms, electricity and kitchen appliances were installed. When Brooks-Scanlon closed the camp, people there were given the option of buying their "shacks." Many did. Those remaining were demolished to make way for condominiums. However, I have my memories, and occasionally I can spot a camp shack that was moved and remodeled.

Obituary

from Mabelle Martsching

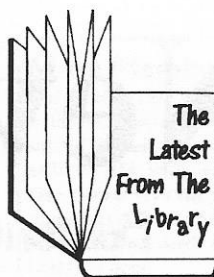
"Mrs. John Chambers, a pioneer resident of Benton County, died at the family residence at Kings Valley late last evening. Mrs. Chambers had been in invalid for years and during recent weeks had been gradually declining. The funeral will be held at the Kings Valley cemetery at 10:30 tomorrow morning, Friday, with Rev. Ballantyne, of the Evangelical Church of Kings Valley officiating. With her husband, John Chambers who survives her, Mrs. Chambers came to Oregon in pioneer days, settling at Kings Valley, where the family has a wide acquaintance. Deceased is survived by two sons, John Chambers, Jr., who attended O.A.C. and was in business in Corvallis several years, and Chester Chambers, a graduate of the local college."

The Daily Gazette-Times, Corvallis, Ore, May 25, 1916.

Can anyone supply more details about Mrs. John Chambers? John Chambers was born in Benton County. His parents were Rowland Chambers & Lovisa King.

WPA Historical Records Survey - Interviews, October 21, 1936 Mr. Willard PRICE keeps the General Store at the village of Kings Valley. He is about 60 years old and is a descendant of the KING and NORTON families who settled in 1846. Said Mr. PRICE:

"The party consisting of the KING family, Lucius NORTON, Roland CHAMBERS and others which settled Kings Valley, came from Ohio by way of Missouri, where they lived for a few years. They crossed the plains in 1845, taking six months for the trip. They made the trip without special incident and stayed the first winter in the neighborhood of Lafayette. The men of the party obtained horses and explored southward, locating claims in Kings Valley on the Luckiamute River. This region was covered with grass so tall they could lap and tie it over their ponies withers. They had been troubled with overflows in both Ohio and Missouri and the higher ground in this region appealed to them. They traveled up the valley and found creeks coming down from the hills to the east about a mile or so apart. This would give each man his mile square claim with running water on each claim. They located enough claims for their party, numbered them and put the numbers in a hat to draw lots. Before they drew Roland CHAMBERS made the proposition that if they would give him his choice of claims he would build a grist mill. His proposal was gladly accepted. He chose the claim which took in a natural fall in the river of about four feet."



No New Books or CDs—
Do you have a suggestion?

Jean Grube, Librarian

Early Benton County: Nimrod O'Kelly

By Dorothy Burt

I have been indexing and editing the **Benton County Commissioners' Journal A** and have had some glimpses into governing on the frontier, in fact, I met Nimrod O'KELLY. His shooting of Jeremiah MAHONEY left Benton County reeling from the expense of maintaining him when they had no jail. The courthouse was still in the future, and the County Clerk had rented space in Marysville. As I came to appreciate the problems O'Kelly caused, I looked back through the records to see just how much it cost.

Below is what I found.

"This day was presented to the Board the following claims, to wit: In the Matter Of Nimrod O'KELLY Convicted of Murder Special Term U.S. District Court June 29th, A.D. 1852. Ordered by the Board that S.F. STARR, Sheriff, is to keep the said Nimrod O'KELLY at Marysville until the date fixed for his execution and safely guard him at the best possible advantage.

Coroner's Inquest Dead body Jeremiah MAHONEY. The following accounts concerning the said Jeremiah MAHONEY were allowed as follows, to wit: Richard IRWIN, Coroner-view of dead body of Jeremiah MAHONEY, \$5.00; venire for jury, .50; Coroner's report 1.40; Total \$6.90. Irwin WHITE, for grave clothes for Jeremiah MAHONEY \$.75. Isaac W. WINKLE, lumber for coffin \$2.00; Arresting Nimrod O'KELLY 2.30; Total \$4.30. Alfred RHINEHART, furnishing rooms for Grand Jury at April term U. S. District Court \$12.00. Attest: A. G. HOVEY, Clerk; O. F. CLARK, James WATSON, A. N. LOCKE, Comm. Board of Co. Commissioners, July Term, A. D. 1852. Present The Hon. O. F. CLARK, A. N. LOCKE and James WATSON, Commissioners, A. C. HOVEY, Clerk, and S. F. STARR, Sheriff. In the Matter of Nimrod O'KELLY came this day S. F. STARR, Sheriff, and reported the following account of expenses incurred by the imprisonment of the said Nimrod O'KELLY,

to wit: John STEWART, Guarding prisoner, 36 days at \$3.00: \$108.00; Jacob ALLEN, same for 18 days: \$54.00; S. M. STOUT, same for 19 days: \$57.00; Jas. WHITE, same for 1 day: \$3.00;

Jas. E. BARCLAY, same for 1 day: \$3.00; A. L. LLOYD, same for 1 day: \$3.00; Lewis DENNIS, same for 1 day: \$3.00; S. F. STARR, committing and attending Prisoner \$18.00; Cash paid for chain \$1.25; Serving venires \$20.00; Total \$39.00; William P. DIXON, repairs on jail, \$2.00; J. C.

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AVERY, for sundries 4.13; HARTLESS & ST. CLAIR, one door lock, 2.00; WRENN & DOUGLASS, Handcuffs and hobbles, \$12.00.

July Term, A. D. 1852 Tuesday Morning, 9 O'clock. Ordered by the Board that John STEWART be paid for boarding the Guard of Nimrod O'KELLY, 5 1/7 weeks at \$5.00 per week, Total \$27.51., boarding Nimrod O'KELLY, 5 1/7 weeks at 8\$, Total \$40.71, for Jail Rent, \$3.00, Grand Total \$69.42. On July 7, 1852 the following additional claims were allowed, to wit: A. M. HERRON, guarding Nimrod O'KELLY, 5 days at 3.00, \$15.00; Hugh STEWART, same for 6 Days, \$18.00.

September Term, A. D. 1852 In the Matter of Nimrod O'KELLY ordered by the Board that the Sheriff or his Deputy be and hereby is instructed to remove the said Nimrod O'KELLY from Marysville if he shall deem it advisable in order to save expenses. S. M. STOUT paid for keeping the said Nimrod O'KELLY from July 7th to 24th August, \$300.00 and from August 24th to September 7th, \$89.32, and further that Mrs. Martha HUFFMAN be paid for boarding the O'KELLY guard 21 days for \$24.00.

In the Matter of Nimrod O'KELLY ordered by the Board that Prier SCOTT be paid for keeping said O'KELLY from the 9th to the 24th of September, \$100.00 and it was further ordered that N. OWNBEY be paid for keeping said O'KELLY / from 24th of September to 18th October \$144.00.

December Term, A. D. 1852 And now at this day was presented / to the Board the following claims for providing, keeping, and taking care of Nimrod O'KELLY, to wit: William F. DIXON, 5 days services at 3.00, \$15.00; Thomas P. ADAMS, 45 days same, 135.00, S. P. STARR, 7 days same, 21.00; And it appearing that said claims are just and correct, it was thereupon ordered that the same be allowed.

April term, A. D. 1853. Be it remembered that on the fifth day of April, A. D. 1853, the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Benton commenced its stated / term to wit, in Marysville in said County. Present, the Hon. O. F. CLARK, / A. N. LOCKE and James WATSON, Commissioners, A. D. HOVEY, Clerk, S. M. STOUT, Sheriff.

In the Matter of Nimrod O'Kelly This day came Thomas P. ADAMS and presented claim for services in keeping said O'KELLY from the 7th of December, 1852, to January 10th 1853, being 34 days at \$4.00 per day, \$136.00; For one flannel shirt, \$2.00; and for tobacco furnished said O'KELLY \$1.50, \$130.50.

This day was presented by S. M. STOUT an account for services in keeping said O'KELLY from the 11th to the 16th of January \$20.00, for taking bail bond, 2.00, Total \$22.00

This day was presented to the account of A. J. BABB, Esq. For defending Nimrod O'KELLY and for expenses incurred by him for that purpose for the amount of \$60.00 the said BABB had been appointed as an Attorney by the District Court of the United States, in and for said County, to defend said prisoner at a special term thereof held 29th June, A. D. 1852, and it further appearing to / the Board that the afore-said accounts are correct, it was ordered the payment of said claims to wit: Thomas P. ADAMS, \$139.00, S. M.



The Society has several copies of **Benton Co. Marriages Vol. 1-1850-1924** which were accidentally printed on 20# paper instead of the heavier 24#. They are available to members at the library for \$20.

STOUT, 22.00, A. J. BABB, 60.00. Ordered that M. PATTON be paid for services in guarding Nimrod O'KELLY in July, 1853, the sum of three dollars, \$3.00

July Term 1854: Now this day came T. J. RIGHT presented to the Board the following Bills, to wit: Bill for going to Milwaukie and bringing O'KELLY to Corvallis, 7 days, at \$5 \$35.00; Board and fare, \$42.00; Total \$77.00; Bill for Guarding and Boarding Nimrod O'KELLY, from 22nd April to 18th May, 25 days at \$3.00 per day, \$75.00."

Total cost related to Nimrod O'KELLY was \$1623.37 in 1852-1854 at a time when the total annual county budget was \$1366.296 [they still used mills for tax purposes]. "

The item in July of 1854 for bail bond suggests that O'KELLY was released at that time. I have read elsewhere that he was exonerated.

have this additional information:

DLC No. 2822 O'KELLY, Nimrod O., Benton Co; b "abt" Apr 1780, Va; Arr. Ore. Sept 1845; SC 1 May 1849, m Sally Bell, 1813, Cooke Co, Tenn. Signed Oath of Allegiance 19 Nov 1863. Joseph B. O'Kelly is son. Benj. Nichols, Joseph C. Alexander, Joseph C. Avery.

WILL BOOK A, Benton County, Oregon. Page 1. O'KELLY, Nimrod Dated 28 June 1852. John O'KELLY 11 years, Sarah O'KELLY 13, Nimrod O'KELLY 18, Wit: John STEWART, William F. DIXON, David STUMP. Recorded 5 Aug 1852 A. G. HOVEY Probate Court.

Additional Reading:

1. Nimrod O'Kelly, 1st Sentenced to Hang in Oregon Heir Lines 23 2 Fall 1998.
2. History of Nimrod O'Kelly Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc. Bulletin Volume 48, Number 4 (June 1999).



Elections will be held at the Nov. meeting! The only change: President: Danell Aukerman

Membership stands at 156 with many having renewed for 2001.

Fans of the Civil War Re-enactments can see more at www.proaxis.com/~cavalrylin/1events.htm. They have events in late April, 4th of July weekend, 1st weekend in August and Labor Day weekend here in Oregon.

Lucy Anna Stratton 1914-2000

Beloved mother of our former editor Ed Stratton, a loving son who visited her faithfully for many years.

Membership Information

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2nd Vice Pres	Margaret Hays	757-8633
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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/>

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 AM with the program at 11:00 AM.

Our Library, in the museum annex, will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 PM.

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

Canadian Interest Group

The Canadian Interest Group meets the third Wednesday of each month, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM in the large meeting room at the Albany Public Library. If you have a specific area of Canada you are interested in, 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.



Stamp

The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:
S=Single; F=Family; E=Exchange.
Number is last of year, 0=2000
L0 is Charter Honorary Life Member

Mailing Label Coding

