

Mid-Valley Genealogical Society

PO BOX 1511
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NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT: KEN BIELMAN

EDITOR: ED STRATTON

TODAYS MEETING

Today's program will be by Ken Munford, speaking on Donation Land Claims.

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 pm 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.

PAF USERS GROUP

The PAF Users group meeting is on the last Friday of the month. This month will be the 29th, at 7:30 pm, at the LDS Family History Center.

VOLUNTEERS

There are several areas that need volunteers to keep them going. Among them are the library, snacks for each meeting and cleaning up afterward, extracting the GT records and others that come up from time to time. If the masses of the membership do not act to fill these open spots, there is one inevitable consequence, the program or activity will close or be considerably curtailed. Please help us by keeping the volunteer chair of each projects list full to overflowing.

ODDS AND ENDS

The Library is open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 pm. Librarians are on hand to help you with your questions. You may check out and return books on Tuesday. We need volunteers for Tuesdays.

Remember our number at the OSU thriftshop is 492.

If you don't already belong to the Benton County Historical Society, why not consider joining? Contact a board member to find out what it is about.

LABELS

Audrey Broadly has handled the Santiam and Flav-R-Pac labels for as long as your Editor can remember. She now needs to have some help or to have someone to take over the job. The labels have to be cut out, if they are not done by the donors, sorted by product, and then bundled in lots of 25. In March they have to be sent off for redemption. So if you are interested, contact your merchandise committee (Damaris). Please keep saving the labels, and bring them into the library. There is a plastic box in the library to store them in.

NOTE: All you need to bring in is the UPC Symbol. Be careful to cut a little extra package around the Symbol so that all of it is there.

THANK YOU AUDREY

The Executive Board wishes to thank you for all of the effort you have put into keeping the labels project going for all these years. We can use all of the helpers, like you, that we can find.

And a special thanks from me. Ed.

THANK YOU EDITH HUGHES

Over the past few years Edith has given the Society a good portion of her book library.

Some of them are in our library and some of them have been sold by the merchandise committee. We have a lot of new ones from her for our garage sale in June.

Thank you Edith, and don't forget your friends here when you move to Idaho to live with your daughter next month.

MONTHLY SHARING

Each month we have a table to bring books or other artifacts to share with the other members, from the area we are specializing in. The items are used for that one day only, you take them home that night. Following is the listing for the ten months that we have meetings. If you have books or items to share, please bring them as shown below.

If we do not have your area of interest, please contact a board member and let's see if we can update the listing to satisfy your needs.

Jan	PA, OH
Feb	OR, WA, ID, MT
Mar	VA, WV
Apr	NC, KY, TN, and Germany
May	IL, MI, WI, Ireland and Scotland
Jun	IN, IA, KS
Sep	NY, NJ, MD, DC
Oct	NH, VT, MA, ME
Nov	CT, RI, DE
Dec	Auction and Christmas Tea

DUSTY Benton County

In February, 1946, Robert Johnson of Corvallis wrote the compiler as follows: "Frank Elgin opened a country five miles northwest of Monroe, and a post office was established therein with Helen Elgin, his daughter, postmaster. The storekeeper suggested the name Elgin for the new office, but as many residents of the community came from Bellefontaine, Ohio, they wanted it named for their native heath. No agreement could be reached and as the store was located on dusty crossroads, the name Dusty was adopted. But the people of the community were not satisfied until the name was changed to Bellfountain and Bellfountain today is surrounded by a prosperous community." The post office at Dusty was established December 6, 1895, with Helen Elgin first postmaster. Whatever the local argument may have been about the name of the office, the real reason why Elgin was not selected was because there was already an Elgin in Oregon and duplications were not allowed. Postal records are not entirely clear, but it seems probable that the name of the office Dusty was changed to Bellfountain on July 31, 1902.

NEW BOOKS

List as of 9 April 1994

1091	VA	Dorman, ed.	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 13, 1969
1092	VA	Dorman, ed.	The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 14, 1970
1093	VA	McAllister	Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War
1094	OR	Crosiar	"Pioneer Sketches", a personal name index (Polk Cty)
	VF		
1095	US	Humling.	U.S.. Catholic Ancestors: a Research Guide
	diocesan		
1096	OR		The Benton County Foundation, 1953-1989
1097	CW	Segars	In Search of Confederate Ancestors; The Guide.
1098	IN	In Hist Soc	Indiana Source Book, Vol. 4
1099	IN	"	" Vol. 5
1100	IN	"	" Vol. 6
1101	NJ	Sinclair/Maher	A New Jersey Biographical Index
1102	VA	Hamlin	They Went Thataway, 3 Vols. in one
1103	POL	Korz/Chroz	Polish Roots
1104	US	Tepper	American Passenger Arrival Records
1105	US		Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals
1106	GER	Jones	German-American Names
1107	IL	Szucs	Chicago and Cook County Sources
1108	VA	Aber/Slat	Index to the VA Revolutionary "Publick" Claims County Booklets
1109	MA	Flagg	Index of Pioneers from Mass to the West (esp Mich)
VF	IA	Iowa Gen. Soc	Hawkeye Heritage Magazine
	(several copies)		
VF	OR	MVGS Mbrs	Native Oregonians
VF	OR		Oregon Postal History Journal (some issues)

Congratulations

FORUM MOVES

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon has moved into new quarters in Portland

They are now at 2130 WS 5th Ave, Suit #220 in downtown Portland.

GARAGE SALE

The Garage sale is set for the 4th of June at Jean Grube's house. Bring in your items to sell. Take to Jean's or call her or Damaris.

WINEMA CHAPTER

NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE WOMAN CALLED WINEMA

by Sandra Ihrig

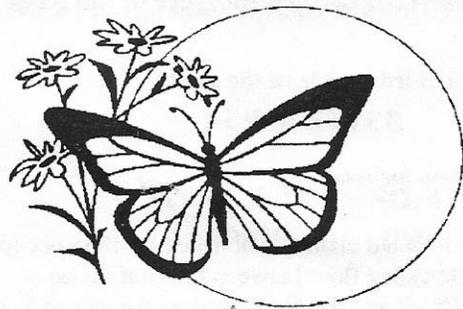
The Winema Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Corvallis on December 28, 1920 at the home of Mrs. A.B. Cordley. There were fourteen charter members. The Chapter name, "Winema" was suggested by Professor J.B. Horner of Oregon State College. Winema was the name given to the daughter of a Native American Modoc Chief. She was a heroine during the Modoc War. Winema was a mediator and interpreter trusted by both the white and Native American people.

Winema was born about 1846 and was raised as any other Native American girl. She was first called "Non-ook-towa" which means "the strange child." Later she was given the name "Kaitech-Ko-Na Winema" after a deed of bravery in which she saved the lives of a group of playmates from drowning. Her new name translates to mean "The little woman chief of the brave heart." Her white name was Toby Riddle after her marriage.

Winema was a favorite of her father and was given many privileges during her travels with him. When she was about sixteen, she met Frank Riddle, a young white Indian trader from Kentucky. The young couple fell in love and later were married, according to Modoc ceremony. She eagerly learned the language of the white people putting away her Indian dress and customs. The young couple lived near Yreka, California. Winema and her husband had four children. Three died in infancy.

It was during the Modoc War that Winema gained her fame. By the time the war broke out she had been married for ten years and had fully embraced the white culture.

On February 28, 1873 Winema, her husband, and three other white men rode into the Lava Beds, just south of the Oregon border to talk to Captain Jack, the leader of a Modoc band seeking refuge from the white power. Only because Winema was his cousin and he trusted her did Jack consent to talk to the other three whites, who were sent out by Washington D.C. to remove the Modocs to a reservation.



There were many twists and turns in the saga of the Modoc War that were very interesting. I will not be elaborating on these events as I have chosen to focus on Winema, the woman.

The finish of the war came when only three of Captain Jack's band were with him and he surrendered. There was a trial held at Fort Klamath. Captain Jack died on the gallows October 3, 1873. His body was dug up from his grave and taken to Yreka where it was embalmed. Then his body was shipped across the country and exhibited at carnivals. According to the story his head was severed and sent to a museum in Washington D.C.

The government granted Winema a pension of \$25 a month. She spent it on impoverished Indians of the Klamath Reservation. For a while she was a celebrity, touring the East, telling audiences of the redskins in the far off West.

The last years of her life were spent on the Klamath Reservation. She died in 1920 at the age of seventy-four. Winema had a post office named after her that is no longer in existence. Also the basalt spires, "Winema Pinnacles" about a mile east of Multnomah Falls were named in her honor.

Winema is buried in Southern Oregon in the Chief Schonchin Cemetery. A plaque was placed on her grave by our Chapter on May 30, 1932 that reads, "Modoc Heroine - Interpreter For Peace Commission - Pensioned by Congress For Courageous and Loyal Service, Modoc Indian War, 1872-73."



This is the third article of the series.

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Continued from last month.

The donation land claims established by 1855 occupied most of the valley floor between the confluence of Crooked Creek and the North Fork at the east end and Digger Mountain to the west. Part of the broad valley of the South Fork was also claimed. Lands not taken by the initial group of settlers included the low area lying between Bummer Creek and the South Fork in section 12, T14S, R8W, and the lands just above and below the confluence of the North and South Forks in section 1, T14S, R8W. Both areas were prone to flooding. The Missouri Bend area was also not claimed by the earliest comers; the narrowing valley offered only limited amounts of arable land and it was farthest from the established community upstream. The surrounding hills did not interest the initial settlers except as a source of timber.

The donation land claims were chosen for agricultural purposes by people with farm backgrounds. It is not surprising, then, that the land selected by the initial settlers was the best the valley had to offer. The surveyor's maps made in 1856 note that the surrounding hills had "Timber Fir, Undergrowth Hazel, Fern and Maple." (Land survey maps, Benton County Public Works, 1856). There undoubtedly were hardwoods along the river, as today. The settlers had open prairie or meadow for their first fields and nearby forest for timber and other uses, all within a limited area.

Although the donation land claims program ceased to operate in 1855, land in the upper Alsea Valley remained available through purchase or, after 1862, through the Homestead Act. By about 1870 most of the arable land downstream in the Missouri Bend area had been occupied, as well as land up the South Fork and Bummer Creek. Some of the donation land claims had apparently changed hands as early as 1860, when the names of Ellis, Fudge, Masen and Longworth do not appear in the census records. Additional research in the county land ownership records is necessary to trace the transfer of donation land claims to other owners and the location of homestead claims.

Pioneer Communities and Institutions

The Surveyor General's map of 1855 shows "Alseya Settlement" at the confluence of the North and South Forks of the river (McArthur, 1982: 12-13), but this name was attached to a collection of neighboring houses rather than to a village. The initial settlers had come to establish farms, and their homes were often widely scattered. Nevertheless, their isolation from other inhabited areas forced the pioneers to see themselves as a community. The present townsite on the Kellum donation land claim has probably always been the focal point of this community



because it is centrally located for those living up the North Fork, the South Fork and Bummer Creek, and downstream toward Missouri Bend.

The first school in the region was taught in a log cabin near the present townsite in 1863. The first teacher was J. C. Clark, who had recently arrived in the Alsea area from the Eola Hills near Salem with his new wife, Sarah Ruble Tom, and her children by her first marriage. (Fagan, 1885: 500; Santee and Warfield, 1943: 56). What drew Clark to the valley is not known; perhaps he was related to Rycraft's mill partner, Henry Clark. One of Mrs. Clark's relatives, David Ruble, later opened a gristmill and sawmill in the valley. Clark obtained a farm and taught for only a short time. In general, school was held sporadically and for only a few months each year.

There is no record of churches in the early pioneer period. Longworth's diary mentions prayer meetings held in farmhouses (Longworth, 1930 (?:) n.p.), and visiting preachers may have led occasional services.

Foods such as coffee and sugar and other supplies that could not be raised or manufactured on the farm were probably purchased in Corvallis. There is no record of a general store or other urban services during this period.

Pioneer Transportation

Pioneer roads and trails were rudimentary at best. A wagon road connected the Alsea Valley to Corvallis by way of the North Fork and Alsea Summit, roughly the route of Highway 34. It was probably impassible in winter due to mud and snow. A horse trail led down the Alsea River toward the coast. (Fagan, 1885: 498-499). A network of trails linked the various parts of the settlement, and river fords or even rough bridges must have existed, but their location is not known. Further research is also necessary to trace the development of roads up the South Fork. A train or road might have served the Rycraft mill during this period, although the fact that the lumber was shipped to the Willamette Valley seems to indicate easier access from the east.



Continued next month.