

# Mid-Valley Genealogical Society

PO BOX 1511  
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NEWSLETTER

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**PRESIDENT: KEN BIELMAN**

**EDITOR: ED STRATTON**

## TODAYS MEETING

The General Meeting will be at 12:30 and the program will be the Pot-Luck lunch on the lawn, if our dear Oregon weather will cooperate.

## CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP

The meeting for June will be a potluck lunch at the Albany Public Library on June 21st from 12:30 to 3:30.

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.

## GARAGE SALE

Thanks to the generous donations of many people, and especially of Edith Hughes, the garage sale added over \$260.00 to the Society book fund. Extra thanks are due to the hard working crew who set up the merchandise, sold, and cleaned up afterwards: Pat Coolican, Judy Beals, Joy Read, Mabelle Martsching, Jeri Shaffer, Betty Swan, Becky Kiger, and to Jean Grube for the use of her garage as well as for her hard work. Damaris Reynolds, Sales committee.

## LABELS

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.

## 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.

## REUNION

The King family reunion is scheduled for June 25, 1994 at the Kings Valley School Gym from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Anyone interested in the King family or of Kings Valley History is welcome to come. We have a potluck lunch. We share family history with different branches of the family. Most of those who attend are descendants of Nahum and Serepta King who first settled in Kings Valley in 1846. We include descendants of the Chambers, Fullers, Nortons, Summers/Sumners, Allens and many more Kings Valley families, as there were many intermarriages.

Mabelle Martching.

## QUERIES

Julius Brownson and his wife Mary Ogden Brownson lived on their Donation Land Claim in Philomath, OR nearly fifty years. She died in 1901 and is buried in the Mt. Union Cemetery. Please, when did he die and where is he buried?

Is anyone researching the Gaston Albert Baxter family or do you know a member of the family? Who was his wife? These records should be from 1925 until the present time.

Is anyone researching the William Wyatt family?

NOTE: The DLC was one mile north of Philomath. Just north of Wyman St. Clair's. ED

Mabelle Martching, 752-5898

**NEW BOOKS**

**1110** The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, MA, by David W. Hoyt. A reprinting of the author's full set of genealogical journals, 1897 - 1919; with a new forward by Gregory H. Long. New England History Press, Someworth, 1981. 3 Vols. in 1. Vol I (411 p.); Vol II (412 - 852); Vol III (853 - 1096). Three indexes. Grey.

**1111** Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America, by Annette Kunselman Burgert. Picton Press, Camden, ME c1992. 690 p. Black

**1112** Westwewald to America; Some 18th Century German Immigrants, by Annette Kunselman Burgert and Henry Z. Jones Jr. Piction Press, Camden ME 1989. 272 p. Red

**1113** Tulpehocken Church Records, 1730 - 1800. Christ (Little Tulpehocken) Church and Altahala Church, Rehrersburg PA. Breenigeville PA. The PA German Society, 1982. Translated by Frederick S. Weiser. Paper. 202 p.

**1114** The Argyle Patent and Accompanying Documents. Excerpted from History of the Somonauk Presbyterian Church by Jennie M. Patten. With notes on Washington County (New York) families. Originally pub. Chicago 1928. Reprinted by Clearfield for Gen. Pub. Co. 68 p. Paper. Gift of Damaris Reynolds.

**1115** Early Ohioans' Residences from the Land Grant Records, comp. by Mayburt Stephenson Riegel. Ohio Gen. Soc., Mansfield OH, 1976. 66 p. Small, paper.

**1116** Polk County Pioneer Sketches, Vols 1 and 2, 1927 - 1929. Compiled by Sarah Childress, Polk Chapter No. 6, DAR The Polk County Observer, Dallas OR. 116 p. Paper.

**1117** Cherokee Roots. Vol 1, 2d ed., by Bob Blankenship. Members of the Cherokee Tribe Residing East of the Mississippi River during the Period 1817 - 1924. Official U.S. Government Census. Cherokee NC, c1992. 163 p. Paper.

**1118** Cherokee Roots. Vol 2, 2d ed., by Bob Blankenship. A Listing of the Members of the Cherokee Tribe Residing West of the Mississippi River. The Old Settler Rolls and Combination Index of the Guion Miller and Daws Rolls are included. Drennan Rolls family names are also indexed. Official U.S. Government Census, 1815 through 1909. 305 p. Paper.

**1119** Compendium of Historical Sources; the How and Where of Genealogy, by Ronald A. Bremer, c1993. Rev. ed. Progenitor Gen. Soc., Salt Lake City, UT, 1004 p. Same as #238 (rev).

**1120** Genealogical Register of Plymouth Families, by Wm. T. Davis. 2d ed. Gen. Pub. Co., 1994. 363 p.

**1121** Colonial Records of Virginia - Senate Document - Extra. Orig. pub. 1874. Rep. by Clearfield Co., Baltimore, MD, 1992. 106 p. Paper.

**1122** Ancestry's Concise Genealogical Dictionary, comp. by Maurine and Glen Harris. Ancestry, Salt Lake City, c1989. 259 p. Paper.

**1123** New York: State Census of Albany County Towns in 1790. comp. by Kenneth Scott. Rep. Clearfield Co., 1991. 68 p. Paper. Gift of Damaris Reynolds.

*Continued*

**1124** Heraldry, Ancestry and titles: Questions and Answers, by L. G. Pine. New York, Gramercy Pub. Co., MCMLXV (1965) 122 p.

**1125** Americans From Germany, by Gerard Wilkes. New York German Information Center. 2d ptg, 1987 (Prominent Americans). 80 p. Paper. Gift of the Carrolls.

**1126** History of Haverhill MA, by G. W. Chase

**VF** Benton County Will Book "A" 1856-1883 or 1890. 20 p.

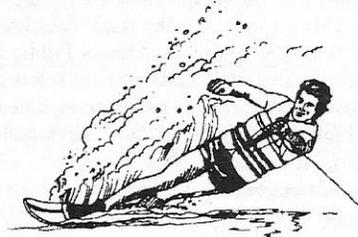
**VF** Oregon Postal History Journal. Several Issues. Gift of Horace Cheney.

**VF** Stories by Native Oregonians. By members of MVGS who are native Oregonians.

**VF** Irish at Home and Abroad (Magazine)

**VF** Maps -- United States.

**VF** Genealogical Shelf List - Albany Public Library.



**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 lets see if we can update the listing to satisfy your needs.

Jan	PA, OH, ENGLAND
Feb	OR, WA, ID, MT
Mar	VA, WV, SCANDINAVIA
Apr	NC, SC, 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

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW of the ALSEA/LOBSTER VALLEY Region of BENTON County OREGON

This is the fifth and final article of the series.

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*Continued from last month.*

### Agriculture and Industry, 1865-1900

Years of agricultural experience led to some changes on Alsea Valley farms. Improved wagon roads and river transport led to expansion of markets for farm products. The Ruble flour mill, opened in 1873, was followed by a second grist mill, known as the Lone Star, opened in 1884. It was operated by C. C. and W. B. Chandler and was located at the confluence of Mill Creek and the Alsea River. (Fagan, 1885:500). By 1885 the valley was exporting wheat, flour, vegetables, fruit, and flax. Hogs, cattle, and sheep were raised but seldom sold on the hoof; instead, bacon, hams, lard, butter, and wool were shipped. (Fagan, 1885: 498).

At some point in the 1870s or early 1880s agricultural products began to be shipped downstream to Alsea Bay. Shallow drift scows about thirty feet long were built near Alsea and floated downstream when the river was high. After selling their goods at Waldport the farmers broke up the scows, sold the wood, and walked back upstream. (Fagan, 1885: 499; Santee and Warfield, 1943: 498).

In 1885, Benton County history describes two sawmills operating at that time. The Inmon mill was opened in 1868 by H. A. Belknap and partners and was purchased by D. W. Inmon in 1869. It was located on the upper South Fork approximately 12 miles west of Monroe and one-and-a-half miles from the southern boundary of the county. In 1885 the mill employed 22 men, despite damage from forest fires in 1882. The first sawmill located in the settled part of the valley apparently was established by David Ruble in 1872 "at the upper end of Alsea Valley". In 1884 Ruble built a new sawmill "in the forks formed by the Alsea River and Rock Creek". (Fagan, 1885: 500). If the Rock Creek referred to is the same as the present stream of that name, the location of the 1884 mill was section 21, T14S, R7W, on the South Fork. It is also possible that there was another Rock Creek on the North Fork that was subsequently renamed.

### Transportation and Communication, 1865-1900

The road to the Philomath-Corvallis area remained the Alsea Valley's main connection to the outside world during this period. Other roads developed from earlier trails. The old South Fork road was surveyed in 1872 along the ridge tops above the river, and ran east to the Bellfountain-Alpine area. The Lobster Valley road was surveyed south "to Alex Strow's" in 1871, and on to the valley itself in 1879. A "new" South Fork road along the river valley was surveyed in 1894. (McDowell, 1984; Benton County Public Works Dept.: various dates).

In the early 1880s a rough trail was still the only route between the upper Alsea Valley and Alsea Bay, except the river itself. Scows were used to transport goods downstream, and the success of the coast trade prompted two attempts to build a road down the river. Thomas Russell, William Hammersley, and William Keady incorporated in 1881 with capital of \$3,000 to construct a wagon road. A second company was incorporated in 1884 with capital of \$50,000. Formed by James Brasfield, James Polhemus, and others, this Alsea Road Company wanted to build a toll road from the upper valley to Tidewater. (Phinney, 1940: n.p.). Neither company proved successful, although small segments of the road were improved by local efforts.



The Alsea Post Office was established in 1871 with Thomas Russell as postmaster. In 1885 the mail was brought in every two weeks from Dallas. The Lobster Post Office in Lobster Valley was established in 1883 and closed in 1896. (Fagan, 1885: 499-500; McArthur, 1982: 12-13, 452).

### The New Century, 1901-1940

The new century brought changes to the Alsea/Lobster Valley region. The population apparently continued to grow slowly until the 1930s when the Great Depression forced some farmers off their land. The depression was especially hard on the owners of upland farms, which were situated on soils poorly suited to agriculture in the first place. Most of the hill farms along the "old" and "new" South Fork roads failed during this period. (Corliss, 1973: 73). Families moved out of the area, Green Peak and Trout Creek schools closed, and the land reverted to forest.

The town of Alsea, platted in 1908, developed during the early 20th Century into a service center for the region. Alsea offered a general store, bank, and a gasoline station after the arrival of automobiles. The three local schools consolidated in 1909; the first rural school system in Oregon to do so. Horsedrawn buses known as "kiddie-wagons" brought children to school from as far as five miles out of town. Missouri Bend School consolidated with Alsea in 1944, and the Lobster Valley schools in 1952. Unfortunately, the Alsea school buildings burned in 1920 and again in 1949, destroying an important community resource. (McDonald, 19 : 21-23).

Life on the farms was altered during this period chiefly by the arrival of gasoline-powered tractors and trucks, and by the electrification of the area in 1939. (Loy, 1976: 77). It is possible that small generating units provided electric power locally before the general electrification of the region.

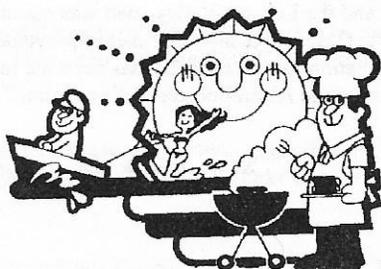
Another major change occurred with the gradual improvement of roads during this period, inspired primarily by the adoption of automobiles for personal transportation. Benton County assumed responsibility for road construction by the turn of the century, and the state became involved in 1917. The Federal Aid Road Act of 1915 provided money for rural postal roads, and later federal involvement brought increased funds for road construction and maintenance. Paved roads gradually extended into the area, reaching Alsea by 1930 and the Lincoln County line by 1940. Highway 34 was not paved all the way to the coast until about 1951, and the Lobster Valley road was not entirely paved until recently. (Loy, 1976: 80-81). Road improvement has finally ended the isolation that historically has been the major characteristic of the Alsea/Lobster Valley region.

*Story complete, tables continued next page.*

## Donation Land Claims in the Upper Alsea Valley

Name	Location	Size of Settlement	Probable Date
Allen Hayden	S.37,T13S,R7W	320	1854
Thomas Hayden	S.38,T13S,R7W	319.67	1854
Jacob Holgate	S.39,T13S,R7W S.43,T14S,R7W	319.50	1852
John A. Williams	S.42,T14S,R7W	322.75	1852
John W. Kellum	S.41,T14S,R7W	110	1852
Joseph Kellum	S1(part),T14S,R8W	160	1852
George H. Rycraft	S.39,T14S,R7W S.44,T14S,R8W	189.56	1852
Squire L. Rycraft	S.40,T14S,R7W S.45,T14S,R8W	159.62	1853
David Fudge	S.38,T14S,R7W S.43,T14S,R8W	317.50	1853
James Edwards	S.41,T14S,R8W	321.33	1853
Emerson Rednor	S.40,T14S,R8W	160.27	1852
A. E. Ellis	S.39,T14S,R8W	159.85	1852
E. T. Ellis	S.38,T14S,R8W	159.38	1852
Basil N. Longworth	S.37,T14S,R8W	161.18	1853
Jeremiah Mason	S.42,T14S,R8W	160.28	1853

Editors NOTE: I have left the spelling as it was in the article.  
At least one of the names is spelled wrong.



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