

Mid-Valley Genealogical Society

PO BOX 1511
CORVALLIS OR 97339

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT: KEN BIELMAN

EDITOR: ED STRATTON

TODAYS MEETING

Joanne Perry will give a talk on her trip to Salt Lake for our program today.

The April program is set to be by Ken Munford.

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 25th, at 7:30 pm, at the LDS Family History Center.

WELCOME OLD FRIENDS

John and Charlotte Marshall have been volunteering in the Museum Library, assisting Judy.

They are now living in Independence, having come back from Nyssa.

On Thursday the 24th of February, I gave them a tour of our Library and they were duly impressed. It is always nice to meet old friends.

Ed

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

March is when we turn in our labels. If you didn't bring them by today they will have to wait for next year. You can still bring your Flav-R-Pak and Santiam labels for next years turn in. 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. If you bring just the UPC Symbol, it will take less room in the library.

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.

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



DUES

If you have not paid your dues you are being removed as a member in good standing and if you are mailed the newsletter you will not receive one, after this mailing. You will not have library privileges.

Your dues are \$9.00 for a family and \$6.00 for a single membership. Make checks payable to Mid-Valley Genealogical Society. Give them to the treasurer at the meeting or mail them to PO Box 1511, Corvallis OR 97339.

ILL MEMBERS

Bernard Beals, wife of our 2nd Vice Pres, Judy, has had a heart attack.

Dan Froehlich was also in the hospital for a few days, with something very similar.

We send our good wishes, and hope for your quick recovery.

NEW BOOKS

List of books as of March 1994:

- 1067 Upper Midwest German Biographical Index, by Don Heinrich Tolzmann
- 1068 Genealogical Research Directory, National & International, 1989. Gift of Pat Rawlinson.
- 1069 Same, 1990.
- 1070 Same 1991.
- 1071 Memories, by Anna B. Hartshorn (Stratford, VT). Gift of Damaris Reynolds.
- 1072 Tracing Your Roots by Computer, by Joanna D. Posey. Gift of Pat Rawlinson.
- 1073-1081 American State Papers. Nine-volume Set. Memorial for Velma Parsons.
- 1082 Grassroots of America, a Computerized Index to the American State Papers, ed. by Philip W. McMullen. Memorial for Velma Parsons.
- 1083 Oregon State Roster of Ancestors, DAR, 1963
- 1084 "Joshua Coffin Papers" (Newbury, MA). Gift of Damaris Reynolds.
- 1085 Ontario County, NY, Cemetery Record Index, by Lawrence Naukum. In the Vertical File. Gift of Damaris Reynolds.
- 1086 Genealogical Field Trip Guide -- Depositories in Erie County, NY. Gift of Damaris Reynolds.
- 1087 Handy Index to the Holdings of the Genealogical Society of Utah. Vol. 1 -- Eastern States. By Mary J. Brown. Gift of Pat Rawlinson.

Other unaccessioned additions:

"Historically Speaking" (Polk County records) -- several issues. Gift of Roland Crosiar, who indexed them.

Several copies of various publications donated by Pat Rawlinson: "Hawkeye Heritage" (IA); NEHGS; "Ohio, the Cross Road of Our Nation"; "Greene Gleanings" (Greene Co, IA); "Manitowac Family Vines" (WI); "Connecticut Ancestry" (CT); "The Genealogical Computer Pioneer", etc.

Members continually bring in one or two copies of various publications. We'd like to thank them all in person, but it's not feasible. If you have contributed something and we haven't mentioned you, please accept our thanks, anyway!

QUERIE

Benton County resident from around the turn of the century, Julius Brownson or Brunson. We need his death date and place. His wife is in Mt. Union Cemetery.

Mabelle Martsching

BOOK COMMITTEE

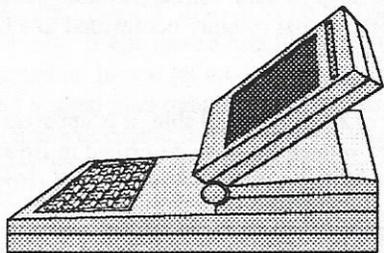
Damaris Reynolds

The Book Committee met and ordered over \$400 worth of books for our library. These came from the lists you members turned in.

Some members expressed an interest in the Society buying the four volume set "The Pension Roll of 1835". The book committee feels that at \$185 it may not be of value to enough members to warrant the expenditure. Accordingly we have decided to put the brochure describing the books and a sign-up sheet in the library. When we get pledges amounting to \$75 we will consider there is enough interest to buy the set.

We now have a good supply of five generation ancestor charts and family group sheets for sale at five cents each, as cheap as photocopying and better paper.

We also have some indexes on CD-ROM on order. They are census and SSAN death listings.



OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

SWEET HOME GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP

The annual Workshop at Sweet Home is the 25th & 26th of March at the Church of Christ at 18th and Long St. in Sweet Home.

A flyer will be in the Library.

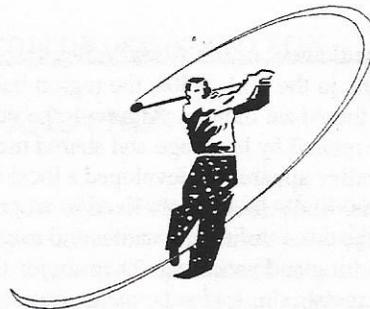
VANCOUVER CONFERENCE

The Washington State Genealogical Society is having their 1994 Conference at the **Red Lion at the Quay** in Vancouver WA, on April 28, 29, 30, May 1.

We will be receiving registration forms sometime this month. Anyone who wishes to attend will be able to get the forms next month.

RON BREMER

Nothing new to report on Ron Bremer. As mentioned here last month he will be with us on the evening of May 16th at 7:30 pm. The program will be in the meeting hall of the Museum. This will be sponsored jointly with us and the Museum.



The following is from the National Geographic Feb 1994

Civil War Soldiers Enter the Computer Era

English-born Fergus Elliott came to the United States in 1857 or 1858. He joined Company G of the 109th Pennsylvania Regiment in 1862, fought in Georgia, was mustered out as a sergeant, married, became a policeman in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and died in 1923.

From his journal we know more about Elliott than about many who fought in the U. S. Civil War. Soon, thanks to regiments of modern volunteers armed with computers, visitors to National Park Service Civil War sites will have access to a database record of every soldier and sailor of the Union and Confederacy.

The information is stored at the National Archives on handwritten index cards compiled after the Civil War. Today's volunteers, many of them genealogists, are entering the data into computers, beginning with the 179,000 U. S. Colored Troops. The 5.4 million cards include numerous duplicates of nearly three million participants. By 1996 the completed database will give the first true count.

BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST

If you need **big** copies of anything, then Kinko's has the answer. They can copy up to 3 X 19.5 feet. That would be a real easy reading pedigree chart for your wall.

I have never tried their service, but what a main hall wall chart that would be.

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

This is the second article of the series.

Article ©1986 BCHM

Continued from last month.



Pre-Settlement Period

Prior to the settlement of the Alsea Valley by Euroamericans in the mid-1850s, the region had been occupied by the Alsea Indians. Although the coastal Indians were related by language and shared most cultural items, each valley apparently developed a local dialect and set of customs. The Alsea people lived in wood plank houses near the coast during the winter and used the upper valley for hunting and gathering. Their major food resources were salmon, seafoods, game, camas, and berries. They traveled by canoe and on foot trails. Population density was probably about 150 per 100 square miles. The Alsea, like most other native peoples of western Oregon, were decimated by disease before Euroamerican settlement actually occurred on their lands. The few remaining Alsea became part of the Siletz and Grand Ronde reservation. (Zucker, Hummel, and Hogfoss, 1983)

There is no clear record of the identity of the first Euroamerican to enter the upper Alsea Valley. Jedediah Smith apparently crossed the Alsea River at about the present site of Tidewater on his return from the Umpqua Valley in 1827. Hudson Bay Company employees from Fort Vancouver probably trapped and traded in the Coast Range valleys. The broad Willamette Valley and its streams opened to exploration and settlement, however, little attention was given to isolated valleys like the Alsea.

Pioneer Settlement, 1850-1860

The opening of the Oregon Trail in the 1840s brought numerous American settlers to the Willamette Valley. Settlers who arrived after 1850 found that the best farmland, mill sites, and other desirable locations along the Willamette River and its tributaries had been claimed by earlier migrants. Although a great deal of adequate farmland remained available in the Willamette Valley, some adventurous newcomers chose to explore other valleys. The upper Alsea Valley was undoubtedly probed by curious inhabitants of the Corvallis area for several years prior to its actual settlement.

The first permanent settlers of the upper Alsea Valley apparently entered the area in 1852. According to Fagan's History of Benton County, Oregon (1885), the pioneers of that year included Emmerson Rettneaur (spelled differently in other sources), Thomas and Asbury Ellis, George and Squire Rycraft, Thomas and Allen Hugden (Hayden), and Jacob Holgate. In 1853, these settlers were joined by James Edwards and Joseph Kellum with two of his sons, among others. (Fagan, 1885: 499-500). Other

sources contradict some of the dates of arrival, but Fagan was probably correct in citing 1852 as the year of initial settlement.

Most of the prime farmland in the upper Alsea Valley was claimed by 1855, the deadline for filing claims under the Donation Land Act. Donation land claims were filed by 15 persons, as shown in the Table.

Donation land claims were generally arranged to take in the largest amount of flat land possible and to avoid the steep slopes on the valley edges and the wettest areas at the confluence of the North and South Forks. The resulting parcels of land did not always conform to the square or oblong shape envisioned by the authors of the Donation Land Act. Jacob Holgate laid out a rectangle with a long, narrow "tail", for example. John Williams took a narrow strip of land. James Edwards claimed an L-shaped property that roughly conformed to a bend in the river valley.

From the list of names in the Table, it is apparent that the localization of related families described in Bowen's study of early Willamette Valley settlement (Bowen, 1978: 43-53) carried over to the Alsea Valley as well. There are two Kellums, two Ellises, two Rycrafts, and two Haydens listed. Basil Longsworth was the brother-in-law of James Edwards, and these two men and Jeremiah Mason came to Oregon as part of the same wagon train in 1853. (Longsworth, no date; quoted in Dole, 1974: 81). Other similar relationships among the earliest settlers are possible.

The 1860 Census of Population reveals that the first group of pioneers on the Alsea Valley were predominantly from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri. Some made an initial move to the Midwest before migrating to Oregon. Jacob and Alvina Holgate, originally from Pennsylvania, had one child born in Illinois in 1850 and four more born in Oregon. James and Mary Edwards were born in Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively. They had four children born while the family lived in Ohio, and three more after arriving in Oregon.

The most interesting birthplace noted in the 1860 census is for Mary Hayden, daughter of Thomas and Mary, who was born "on the Plains". One can only speculate on the economic and social forces that compelled the parents to leave their former home in Missouri with a woman more than half-way through a pregnancy, at a time when the lives of mothers and infants were often lost in childbirth even under the best conditions. (Haskins, ed., 1973).

Continued next month.