

# 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 held in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, next door. The Social Hall is north of the fireside room, where we had the Christmas program. The program will be by Jerry Easterling speaking on "The Lighter Side of Genealogy".

## CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP

**There will be no meeting in May.** For June, there 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.

## PAF USERS GROUP

The PAF Users group meeting is being cancelled due to lack of use by members.

The attendance at recent meetings was such that Jim has decided that he could no longer reserve the room for non-existent people.

If anyone needs help on PAF, contact one of the more knowledgeable users and they will be glad to help you.

## 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

We were lucky to find a person to take Audrey Broadly's place as the label caretaker. Laura Crosier has volunteered to do this job. Thank you Laura for assuming this position and thank you Audrey for all the years you kept it going.

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.

## JUNE POTLUCK

For the June Potluck the Society will furnish punch, coffee, and hot water for tea or soup. We will also furnish paper plates, and plastic forks and spoons. If you wish you can bring your own dishes and utensils.

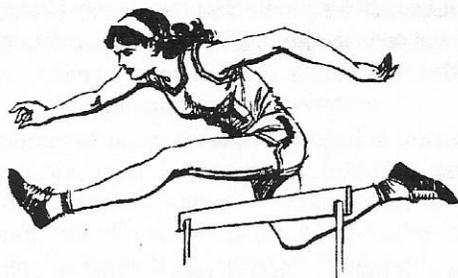
Please bring a Potluck dish. We have found in the past that the main dishes, salads, and desserts always seem to balance out.

## SCOTTISH TOUR

We received a flyer from **The Scottish Genealogical Research Service** at P.O. Box 818 in Gresham OR 97030. They will present a Scottish Heritage Tour with Estella Yule Pryor C.G.L. as your Tour Guide.

According to the flyer, a family heritage tour of Scotland will be held in conjunction with the Family History Conference, April 22, 1995 in Aberdeen. We will attend this informative conference plus visit folk museums, heritage centers, the Islands of Iona, Mull and Skye, and many other fascinating historic places. This 15 day tour will cost \$3275, which will include air fare, accommodations, fees, plus much more, and be limited in size.

For more information contact Estella at Willamette International Travel at 503 224-0180 or 800 821-0401.



## 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.

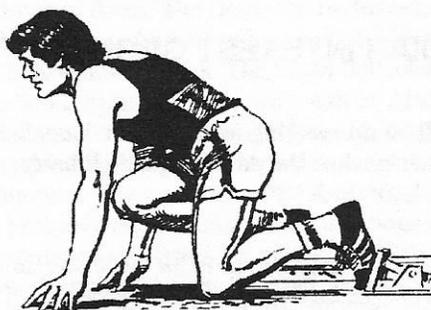
Jan	PA, OH, ENGLAND
Feb	OR, WA, ID, MT
Mar	VA, WV, SCANDINAVIA
Apr	NC, SC, KY, TN, and Germany
May	IL, MI, WI, Ireland and Scotland
Jun	IN, IA, KS
Sep	NY, NJ, MD, DC
Oct	NH, VT, MA, ME
Nov	CT, RI, DE
Dec	Auction and Christmas Tea

## NEW BOOKS

The Librarian will have a list of new books for the June Newsletter.

## RON BREMER

Genealogical Lecturer, Ron Bremer, 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. Long time members will remember Ron from the November 4th 1989 visit he paid us.



## 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.

## PERSI

Are you using PERSI? If not, you are missing a good research tool. PERSI is an index of genealogical articles in periodicals published all over the US, and for many years. PERSI is on microfiche at the FHL.

You can obtain photocopies of the articles from the Allen County Public Library, P.O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN, 46801.

As of 1990 the charge was \$3.00 per request, which can include more than one article, plus twenty cents per page. The library will also photocopy pages from books if you send them page numbers, or if the books are indexed, they will search for pertinent information.

from Damaris Reynolds

Daniel Froehlich gave us this list a while back to be used when there was space.  
Thanks for being patient Dan.

**100 Most Used Reference Works on Microfiche. Should be at all the LDS Family History Centers.**

**Canada**

- A-1 Lovell's Gazetteer of British North America, Peter Crossby, ed. Montreal 1881  
( 6 Fiche starting 6010015 )
- A-2 "Canadian Participants in the American Revolution, an Index" Virginia DeMarie, transcript 1980  
( 6 Fiche starting 6046783 )
- A-3 Lovell's Canadian Dominion Directory for 1871, Montreal, 1871 (Directory of person listed in city/township directories)  
( 47 Fiche starting at 6046766? )
- A-4 "Recensements du Quebec" Quebec census records - mainly major cities.  
( 19 Fiche starting 6046792 )
- A-5 The Loyalists in Ontario; the Sons & Daughters of the American Loyalists of Upper Canada.  
William Reed, NJ 1973. Includes those who married loyalists 1750 - 1850  
( 5 Fiche starting 6046758 )

**Denmark**

- B-1 Danish Norwegian Paleography Basic guide to reading written documents 1976  
( 1 Fiche 6030017 )
- B-2 Major Genealogical Record Sources in Denmark 1974  
( 1 Fiche 6030005 )
- B-3 Post-og Telegraf Adresse bog for Kongeriget Danmark, 1960 postal Guide & gazetteer  
( 6 Fiche starting 6030021 )

**England & Wales/ Great Britain**

- C-1 The Survey Gazetteer of the British Isles, Edinburgh 1952 John Bartholomew  
( 8 Fiche starting 6020337 )
- C-2 A Topographical Dictionary of England Gazetteer and guide for ecclesiastical jurisdictions London 1831  
Samuel Lewis  
( 16 Fiche starting 6340019 )
- C-3 A Topographical Dictionary of Wales London 1833 Samuel Lewis  
( 10 Fiche starting 6026723 )
- C-4 Welsh Administrative and Territorial Units Medieval and Modern Cardiff 1969 University of Wales  
( 4 Fiche starting 6026396 )
- C-5 The Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales A. Fullarton Edinburgh 1870  
( 29 Fiche starting 6020308 )
- C-6 Street Index 1841 Census England & Wales Index of 1841 streets in larger cities - Liverpool, Leeds,  
Southampton, London.

This is the fourth article of the series.

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*Continued from last month.*

## Pioneer Agriculture and Industry

The settlers at first practiced subsistence farming as they cleared and plowed their new fields. The typical family raised wheat, perhaps oats or barley, a vegetable garden, and an assortment of livestock for their own use. As production expanded, the farmers found themselves isolated from Willamette Valley markets by distance and the steep grades of the Coast Range. Grain was hauled by wagon to a mill in Corvallis to be ground into flour for home use or to sell. This trip was arduous and expensive, but there was no alternative until 1873 when David Ruble established the first flour mill in the Alsea Valley "at the upper end" of the valley. (Fagan, 1885: 500). Surplus grain and flour were still shipped from the region after that date, but at least the farmer's own flour was milled locally. The sale of livestock and other farm produce was handled similarly. Animals were driven live to market at first, thereby providing their own transportation.

Other sources of income were developed in the timber industry. Squire Rycraft, for instance, listed his occupation in the 1860 census as "carpenter" rather than "farmer". A few months after his arrival in the Alsea Valley in 1853 Rycraft built a sawmill on the upper South Fork, about 15 miles from his claim. If this location is correct, it would place the mill above Alsea Falls. Rycraft's partners in this venture were John Fudge and Henry Clark. With siding and floorboards cut with this mill, Squire and his brother George are known to have built a barn for Ransom Belknap, whose farm lay about eight miles east of the sawmill in the Willamette Valley. Several other buildings were constructed by the Rycrafts in the same area before 1860. (Dole, 1974: 94-95). Lumber from the Rycraft mill was probably also used on the Alsea Valley farms. Fagan stated that Squire Rycraft sold the mill in 1860. (Fagan, 1885: 521).

## The Post-Pioneer Era, 1865-1900

Lands claimed under the Homestead Act expanded the settled area during this period. Farms extended up the North and South Forks, up Bummer Creek, downstream to Missouri Bend, and over the hills to the south. Lobster Valley, even more isolated than the Alsea, was settled about 1877 by families from the Willamette Valley. An example is Abraham Morton Peek, who came to Oregon in 1847 from New York and took a donation land claim in the Santa Clara area near Eugene. He moved to a homestead claim in the Lobster Valley in 1877. His son George also homesteaded in Lobster Valley in 1882 to 1898. (Hinchsliff, 1979: n.p.). Other homesteaders claimed farms in the hills surrounding the two valleys,



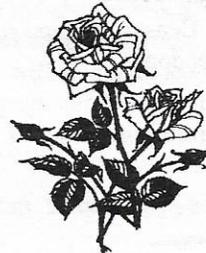
especially between the South Fork and the Alpine-Bellfountain area in the Willamette Valley. The number and origin of these people is not known at this time.

## Communities and Institutions, 1865-1900

The Alsea Valley remained a rural community throughout this period. As the population grew and dispersed, schools were established to serve outlying areas. By about 1875 there were three schools operating. The Upper School was located on the Hayden farm about three miles east of the present town of Alsea. The Dower or Taylor School was located about two-and-a-half miles west of Alsea, probably near Schoolhouse Creek. The South School was located on the South Fork a mile or two south of Alsea, but the exact location is not known. (McDonald, 1982: 21). The three school buildings also served as community centers and churches. (Fagan, 1885: 499). Religious services were probably nondenominational meetings or occasional presentations by visiting ministers. In 1888 the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was built in what is now the town of Alsea. The building also served as a school when necessary. (Weber, 1984).

Sometime during this period a village began to grow at the present site of Alsea. The origin and development of the town is not well known and should be the subject of further research. Fagan does not mention the town of Alsea in his 1885 history, but merely refers to the "precinct". Other sources are equally vague. It is possible that a small village consisting of several residences, the Presbyterian Church, and perhaps a general store was in existence by the late 1880s. The church structure appears to be the oldest extant structure in the town.

In the 1890s several new schools were built to serve the still-expanding population of the outlying areas. Honeygrove School on Honey Grove Creek taught the children of two families in the small valley. Missouri Bend School served the western part of the Alsea Valley. Hazel Glenn and Mt. Dell schools educated the children in Lobster Valley. Green Peak and Trout Creek schools served children from the isolated hill farms southeast of Alsea. (McDonald, 1983: 24,85-88, 92-94,125-26, 130-131).



*Continued next month.*