

Mid-Valley Genealogical Society

PO BOX 1511
CORVALLIS OR 97339

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT: KEN BIELMAN

EDITOR: ED STRATTON

TODAYS MEETING

This month we will have group discussions on the various area that we are studying. The groups that will be this month are New England, hosted by Danel Aukerman, Pennsylvania and the Ohio area by Judy Beals, and Computers with your editor. This will be done again in February so you can visit your other groups at a later time.

Next month will be the regular December program of the Auction and tea.

CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP

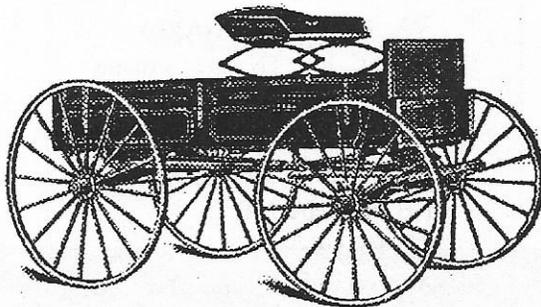
The Canadian Interest Group is for those searching for their roots in Canada. This group meets the third Tuesday of each month, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at the Albany Public Library. If you have a specific area of Canada you are interested in, please let me know so we can have books and printed materials 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.

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.

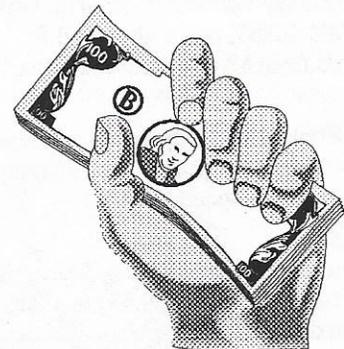


ODDS AND ENDS

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.



DUES

It is that time again. Your annual dues may be paid starting with the September meeting. The membership chair and Treasurer would like to get this job done before the first of the year.

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

Please get your dues paid early this year.

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MYRA GORMLEY

"Reputable services aid research into foreign roots."

The above headline appeared in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer for Thursday September 8, 1994 in the regular column by Myra Gormley titled Family Tree. She is a columnist with the LA Times Syndicate.

When your editor was on Prodigy, this was one column that was checked each time the service was used. This goes along with the articles on rip-offs we ran about a year ago.

"There are numerous genealogical entrepreneurial ventures springing up in both the United States and in Eastern European countries. They are not always what they claim to be."

Myra goes on to explain that there are rip off artists in Eastern Europe, that will take your money and give you nothing. She then lists services that have provided results so far.

"RAGAS (Russian American Genealogical Archival Service), P.O. Box 236, Glen Echo, MD 20812. This is a joint venture between members of the Russian archival system"

"FAST Genealogy Service, 8510 Wild Olive Drive, Potomac, MD 20859, especially good for Lithuania; also some records from Ukraine and Moldova."

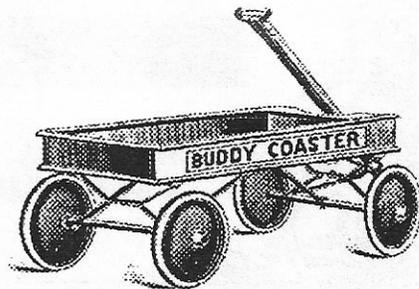
"Routes to Roots, 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094, operated by a certified genealogist, Miriam Weiner, who is a Jewish research specialist."

"The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, P.O. Box 16225, St. Paul MN 55116-0225, is an organization devoted to research of all these ethnic groups." Myra lists all the former ethnic groups from the original Czechoslovakia. These include Bohemian, Moravian, Silesian, Bohmisch (German-Bohemian), Slovak, Rutheian and Jewish.

Two official archival ministries are listed.

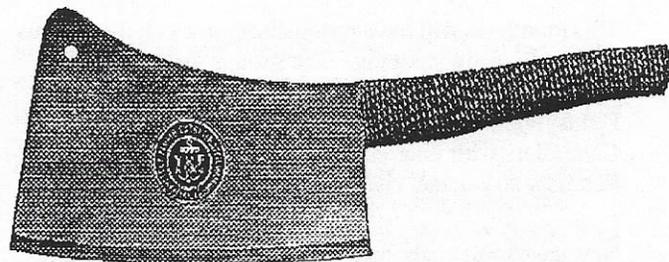
Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, Department of Archives and Internal Administration, Trida dr. Milady Horakove 133, 166 21 Prague 6, Czech Republic.

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Department of Archives, Krizkova 7, 811 04 Bratislava, Slovak Republic.



The entire article is available if you want to read the complete item. If you are researching in these areas, you should arm yourself with all the information available.

Your editor wishes to thank Myra for just being. You really ought to read her articles whenever possible.



NEW BOOKS

Since there were only three new books this month, we will wait to next month to list them.

The new book lists are in the Library, and can be purchased for \$1.00. You can then keep them up by adding the books listed in the newsletter.

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.

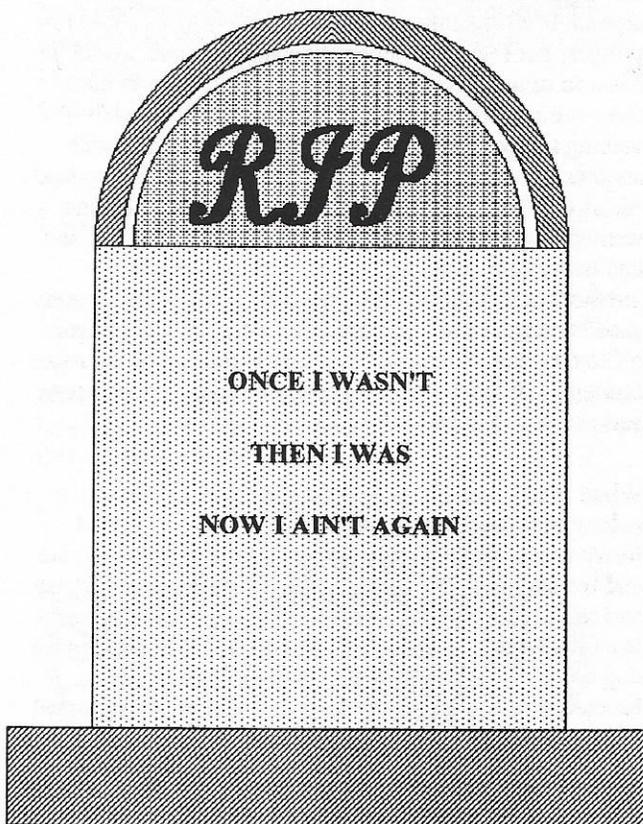
Jan	PA, OH, ENGLAND
Feb	OR, WA, ID, MT
Mar	VA, WV, SCANDINAVIA
Apr	NC, SC, KY, TN, and Germany
May	IL, MI, WI, Ireland and Scotland
Jun	IN, IA, KS
Sep	NY, NJ, MD, DC
Oct	NH, VT, MA, ME
Nov	CT, RI, DE
Dec	Auction and Christmas Tea



FASTER MAIL DELIVERY

The U.S. Postal Service recommends that you capitalize all addresses because new electronic scanners "read" ALL CAPS faster and more accurately. Your first class mail will travel much faster if you use the following guidelines: 1. Type addresses in ALL CAPITAL letters. 2. Use NO punctuation in the address. Do NOT use commas or periods which slow down the electronic reading. 3. Mail will travel faster if the address is typed. Do NOT use script or Old English styles. 4. If you do not have access to a typewriter, use black ink and write in capital or block letters. 5. Be sure to leave clear space between each letter or figure. 6. Use the two-letter code for state designations and use the 9 digit zip code when known. 7. Gray or dim printouts from computers or from coarse dot-matrix printers may be 'read' by the postal scanner thus causing a delay.

(from the CSG Newsletter Jan/Feb 1994)



OCCUPATIONAL TERMS

In late 1992 and early 1993 we had two listings of early occupations. Here are some more you can use in your research.

CARTWRIGHT	An artisan who makes or repairs carts.
CORDWAINER	Shoemaker
CHIRURGEION	Surgeon
DRAPER	a dealer in cloth and sometimes also in clothing and dry goods.
FULLING MILL	a mill for fulling cloth by means of pestles or stampers which cleanse it and beat and press it to a close or compact state.
HOUSEWRIGHT	a builder of houses.
HUSBANDMAN	one who plows and cultivates land; farmer
MERCER	dealer in textile fabrics.
SHIP CHANDLER	one who deals in ship supplies.
SHIPWRIGHT	one who makes or repairs ships.
WHEEL WRIGHT	one who makes or repairs wheels and wheeled vehicles, as carts and wagons.
WHITESMITH	silversmith; a worker in light metals.
WRIGHT	one who makes or constructs; a workman; a mechanic; chiefly used in compound words as shipwright, etc.
YOEMAN	a freeholder of a class below the gentry who worked his own land.



MEETING CHANGE

Last month the callers asked you if you wanted to change the sequence of meeting, program, and study times. Since a large majority of you wanted the change, the following schedule will be voted on during the meeting Saturday November 12, 1994.

Business meeting	10:00 am
Program	11:00 am
Study time	12:00 to 3:00 pm
The library will not be open until 12:00 noon.	

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OREGON TRAIL JOURNEY

Bill and Moira Valenzuela have been members of our society for several years. This summer they were here in Oregon for quite some time. During that time I talked to Bill and they came to visit Mabelle. I asked Bill if I could reprint part of their year end letter to their families that pertained to their trek along the Oregon Trail. He said of course, so here is part two of their journey.

Thanks folks, this will be enjoyed by a lot of people. It was written by Moira.

continued from last month

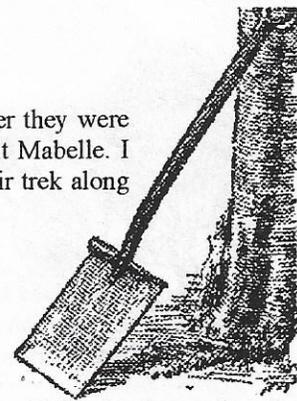
Speaking of facts and myths, we found that the wagons circled at night, not because of marauding Indians, but so the pioneers would have a corral for their livestock. The Indians did not attack at night, but did not mind "liberating" any livestock they could. The wagons also did not follow each other single file, but spread out, perhaps as many as twelve abreast with a good distance between the columns, so the livestock would have plenty to graze on as they moved along. Remember, it was not just the oxen that needed to graze, there were cows, sheep, goats, horses and any other livestock the pioneers were taking along with them that needed to be able to find something to eat.

The Indians did not start out being hostile. It was only after they saw their land being taken, the wildlife being killed indiscriminately and their way of life being threatened, that they became a tad hot headed. They had, at first, gone out of their way to make the travel across their lands easier for the pioneers. Remember, they had had dealings and lived side by side with the white man for years, through trapping and trading.

The "forts" were not all military in the beginning. Many of them started as trading posts, such as Fort Bridger, which was owned by Jim Bridger, and later by Brigham Young. It was when the hostilities started that the military moved in. The pioneers stopped in these places to fix their wagons, replenish their supplies, and, once the Indians realized their way of life was doomed, if they did not find a way to discourage the white people from moving west, stay until there were enough wagons to travel safely together, through hostile Indian country.

The wagon trains did not leave Independence, MO or Council Bluff, IA until the grass was six inches high. That way they were assured of plenty grazing on the trail. It also meant that there was a good chance that the storms on the plains would be over by the time the wagons got there.

The Oregon Trail became the longest junk yard as wagons broke down, and could not be fixed so families had to lighten their loads because they did not have enough space, in other wagons, or adults were killed and the children were taken in to other families wagons, but their own family belongings had to be discarded. The Trail also became the biggest free library for the same reason as families discarded their books. It was also the longest graveyard as the people were buried as soon as they died. Of course they very often did not stay



buried as the wild animals would dig them up and scatter the bones across the prairie. It is estimated that one in ten people died on the trail west.

In Nebraska we saw Chimney Rock, which, to me, looks more like an upside-down funnel than a chimney, since it has sustained so much damage from lightning strikes. Did you know that it is hit hundreds of times a year? One of the more recent times it was hit, was early in the morning, when a wagon load of people were riding across the prairie, to watch the sun come up at Chimney Rock. That year the Rock lost over twenty-seven feet off the top of the Chimney. Of course wind erosion is not helping matters either.

We saw a dirt road that had a sign that said "Chimney Rock ->" and Willie thought he'd like to get up close to get some more pictures, so off I went down the dirt road. It was like a washboard, so we had to travel slowly, and it became more desolate as we went along it. One of the things you have to watch out for driving an RV, is low bridges. We can not take anything less than twelve feet high. Another, is we need plenty of space to turn around. Well right then I knew I had no worries about low bridges, but I was beginning to wonder if there would be room to turn us around, or was I going to have to back three miles along our washboard road? Just as I was voicing my concern we came to a "T" in the road with another sign that said "Chimney Rock ->" only it also said "dead-end" and was only a dirt lane. I told Willie if he wanted to get to Chimney Rock, he was on his own, and had better start walking, because I know I could turn around where I was, but was not sure of what else was up ahead. I started to do my "six-point turn", while he went off to take some pictures. I sat there at the end of the road, headed back the way I had come. just enjoying the view, and peace and quiet of the country side.

When Willie came back he said there was a prairie dog colony in the field at the edge of the road, so I pulled forward until we came to a flat place, turned off the engine, and we sat there, for about a half hour, watching them play and call to each other. Sometimes it pays to take dirt roads. We found out later that you don't go into field with prairie dog colonies, as rattlesnakes take up residence there, because they are especially fond of a diet of prairie dogs!

continued next month