



NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

Volume Fourteen
Number Three

April, 1999

Program for April 10

GARAGE SALE

The program for the April 10 meeting will be presented by Mary Gallagher, staff member at the Benton County Historical Museum, who will talk about the preservation and conservation of our family treasures.

SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX

Did you know that...

There are several reasons why a person who is deceased may not be found in the Social Security Death Index.

1. If the person had never been enrolled under social security and had no social security number.

2. If the person died before he/she started collecting social security benefits.

3. If the person's death was not reported to the Social Security administration so they had no record of it.

4. If the person's name was changed, misspelled, etc. so that the name you are looking for is not the name under which he/she was registered with the Social Security Administration.

There are other possible reasons but 2 and 3 above are probably the most common. Some people don't realize that the SDDI is a list of those persons who died while collecting social security benefits and their death was reported to the Social Security Administration (which is required but doesn't always happen.) The address given to the SSDI is not where that person lived but is the address that the final social security check was sent to. It may be the same but often is not.

from Roots List

Lee Rudisill has volunteered to be in charge of the spring garage sale which will be Saturday, May 15. She would like one or two Volunteers that week to help sort and setup, and sales help on Saturday to work in short shifts. She will have a sign up sheet at the meeting, but if you would like to help and won't be at the meeting, please call her at 753-7891. If you have items to donate, you may call Jean Grube at 758-7618 and arrange to take them to her house. We ask that you do not bring clothes. They do not sell well and we end up having to dispose of them. Take clothing to Vina Moses or one of the thrift shops. Remember, the proceeds go for books.

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The House of Centelou & Co; The Story of a Southern Family,
by McLeod.

Gift of the author.

The Descendants of Robert Henderson of Hendersonville, PA,
by Henderson

Index to Maury County, TN, Wills & Administrations, 1807 to 1861

Who Are You? The Romance Of Your Name, by Ellis. Collated by

Lee Rudisill

Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Western Nebraska

CD - Family Tree Maker's World Family Tree, Volume 4*

CD - U.S. Census Index Series - 1790*

CD - Marriage Records, Early - 1850, Illinois, Indiana*

CD - Marriage Index: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV, 1728-1850*

CD - Marriage Index: AR, CA, IA, LA, MN, MO, OR, TX, 1728-1850*

CD - Federal Pensioners' Roll of 1883

The California Locator, by Nicklas, 1998-99 ed.

The Wuerttemberg Emigration Index, by Schenk & Froelke, Vol. 7

Tennessee Genealogical Records & Abstracts, by Eddlemon, Vol 1 - 1788-

1839

*Gifts of Jackie Marshall

EXPERIENCES OF A UNION SOLDIER IN THE CIVIL WAR

(conclusion)

We stopped at Charleston about two weeks and then moved to Florence. If we had any fun at Charleston, we had none at Florence. It was as much worse than Andersonville as it is possible to imagine and the men went down like leaves after a heavy frost. Dead men lay in the streets at all times of the day and night, and there was hardly enough well ones to carry them out for burial. I shall pass over Florence as quickly as possible for the thoughts of it sicken me even now, and I can feel again all the horror of the terrible days spent there. It was getting into November now, and the nights were terribly cold. My clothing was getting thin in spite of all my care, and it was not pleasant sleeping on the ground with no shelter and no fire, especially if it is as wet as it was there in November. My shirt was full of holes, and I had neither shoes, hat, nor jacket. I immediately joined with some of the others, and we made us a shelter of some pine brush and mud bricks that we made and dried as well as we could in the sun. It was about 10 feet wide and 14 feet long. There was from twenty to thirty of us crowded into this little hut. As fast as one died we took in another. About every night the rain would wash a hole in the roof and down it would come, then we would shiver round until we could fix it again. I was only sixteen then and how I lived through it I never knew, but I worried along until the fifth of December; then there was a call for two thousand of us to go, we knew not where; but with everything to gain and nothing to lose, I fell in with the others and marched up to the Hospital where, after signing our names, we were marched to cars and started for Charleston, reaching there the next morning, December 6th, 1864. Even now we had no suspicion of the truth, though the rebels shouted as we marched through the streets, "Goodbye, Yankees." We got at last down to the docks and were loaded on a steamer and immediately started out of the harbor flying a white flag. And now we began to speculate on the possibility of release but could not believe it possible. But in a very short time we met another steamer also flying a white flag, and as we hove to under her lee we saw for the first time in many months the bluejackets of Uncle Sam. We were transferred in a short time, though not without some trouble for most of the prisoners were seized with an insane desire to kill some of the rebel crew. And it was only by Union soldiers coming aboard, and carrying us off by main strength, that we at last got off. Of course, we were so used up that no one was hurt, but it took some time. I cannot tell my feelings as I found myself once more among friends. I think I was partly stunned and failed to realize it fully.

We went from Charleston to Annapolis, Maryland, and there much against my will, I was placed on a stretcher and taken to the paroled prisoners' hospital. It seemed then as if life had no more to offer, and I had just as lief die as not, and many did there. We had every possible care, and after a month I was given a furlough and went home. The first my friends had heard from me in seven months was only a day or

(cont.>)

Two before I reached home. My weight after I had been out of prison for about six weeks was seventy-five pounds. I stayed home for about a month, and then went back to the front, reaching my regiment in time to join the last campaign it made and had the satisfaction of driving the rebels out of Danville and of marching with our victorious army through Richmond and Petersburg and soon after went with the rest of the regiment to Madison, Wisconsin, where we were discharged.

And now, having followed me from the Wilderness through seven months of prison life and back home, I will bid you good-night and hope that this recital may not have been entirely without interest.

Written by Oscar D. Wheeler, born Acton, Massachusetts

WHEELER, OSCAR D. marr. KINGSLEY, DELLA E.
01/07/1895

Wheeler, Oscar D. 1890 Veterans Schedule



LDS DATABASES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONE LINE

For years, many of us have predicted that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) would place many of their databases online. . . The Mormon Church remained quiet until this week. Finally, they made an announcement that we have all been waiting years to read:

Public Test Begins for New Genealogical Service

Salt Lake City, Utah- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has begun a brief public test of a new genealogical service for the Internet. The developmental test is open to anyone with Internet access, and the site can be found at <http://www.familysearch.org>. No special password or clearance is required. Present plans are for the test site to be available over the next few weeks. Due to test requirements the site may be unavailable at times or experience periods of slow response.

The Church believes that, once the test is completed and the service is formally launched, it will greatly enhance the way people trace their family history. Depending on evaluation of the test, the full service may be launched this spring or summer. At that time, but not until then, detailed explanation will be made of the site and its various elements.

The Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is an international leader in genealogical research with the world's largest collection of family history records made available to the public through a system of 3,200 Family History Centers located around the world.

Excerpted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

(Gene Newcomb contributed this item. He says he has used the new site and it is very good.)

History of Benton County, Illustrated

By David D. Fagan

You know how you feel about that old sweater (or shoes or hat or whatever)?

Well, that's how I feel about the book we call Fagan's in the Museum Library. The book is actually David D. Fagan's **History of Benton County** Illustrated. It was completed in 1885, and is the only written history of Benton County, for that period, that I am aware of.

Whenever I would have to copy something from that book, that was over a century old, it made me feel almost sick. If you have ever done anything with old books, you know how dry the pages feel and you are afraid that it will fall apart in your hands. But, if you were doing research, on Benton County, you had no choice but to use the book.

In the spring of 1998, we received a letter from Higginson Book Co. in Salem Mass. It said that they had just finished copying the Fagan's and would like us to review a copy of it. Of course, we said yes! That would be like turning a child loose in the candy store.

I sent an e-mail to the acquisitions editor, Laura Bjorklund, telling her about the index that the Winema Chapter of DAR made for it in 1951. It was done on a standard typewriter and in those days, you tried to get as much on a page as possible, so it wouldn't work for them to copy. Over the next three months my wife, daughter, and I, worked over the fifty plus pages of the name index and got it off so Higginsons could add it to the book.

We have the book now. The one in the Genealogy Library doesn't have the index, but one was printed and added so the researchers will have the index to work with. The one that the Historical Museum received has the index printed in the back.

Am I happy with what they did. You bet I am. It is a different color than the original, and it is new, but it is an exact copy of the original, down to the ink spots on some of the pages. When I put it into the copy machine, the pages feel so new and I am not worried about it falling to pieces.

My association with Higginsons has been a good one. The people I worked with made it easy to do what we did. Would I do it again? You better believe it.

Ed Stratton

MEMBERSHIP

For latest membership news, check with Leila Crawford, membership chairman. If you haven't paid this years dues, it's not too late. They can be prorated. There's much to be gained by being a member— new books, informative programs, and helpful friends.

Membership Information

President	David Kribs	929-6079
1st Vice Pres	Ken Bielman	758-3769
2nd Vice Pres	Charlene Talbot	929-6079
Secretary	Terri Greene	929-6347
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb	929-5715
Librarian	Jean Grube	758-7618
Membership	Leila Crawford	929-5935
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Burt	
	dgburt@pioneer.net	424-3021
	Janice Barclay	
	Jbarc@pioneer.net	847-5610

Dues are \$10.00 single and \$13.00 family per calendar year.
Dues paid after September 1st are credited to next year.

Web page URL <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbentgs/>

The Benton County Genealogical Society will buy your used genealogy CDs for 1/2 their purchase price! CDs will be placed in our collection. After you've used it, sell it to us!

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 p.m. 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.

Odds And Ends

Our number at the OSU Thriftshop on Second Street in Corvallis is 492. Please keep your Santiam and Flav-R-Pak labels coming in to the Library. There is a plastic sack in the library to keep them in. Leila Crawford is in charge of the label program. All you need is the UPC Symbol from the label. Be sure that you leave some area around the label when you tear it off.

More Member Info

Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of September through June, in the NE Dining Hall of the College United Methodist Church, on the east side of the parking lot, in the 1100 block of Philomath. Business meeting is at 10:00 a.m. with the program at 11:00 a.m.

Our Library, in the museum annex, is open to members and visitors on meeting days from 12:00 noon, or when the program is over until 3:00 p.m. IF we can keep enough volunteer librarians, it will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 p.m.

Members in good standing may check out up to five books and return books any time the library is open.



The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:
S=Single, F=Family, E=Exchange
Number is last digit of last year dues paid: 9=1999
LO is Charter Honorary Life Member

Mailing Label Coding



Stamp