

# NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

Volume <sup>15</sup> ~~Fourteen~~

Number ~~Eleven~~ <sup>One</sup>

January 2000

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### JANUARY PROGRAM

#### WHO GETS GRANDMA'S YELLOW PIE

PLATE is the name of the discussion by Donna Gregerson at the January meeting. She will give helpful hints and ideas on the division and distribution of family heirlooms. This is a subject that probably every one of us needs to think about!

Installation of officers for the coming year will also be part of the program.

Looking forward to February, the subject will be The Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. Ken Bielman has asked anyone whose family suffered deaths or other extreme stress from this epidemic here in this area to contact him with their stories.

### LOOKING FOR OBITUARIES

*Since this issue of the Newsletter seems, inadvertently, to be dwelling on obituaries, it seems a good time to include this piece based on an item in Roots-L by Thena Jones.*

The first place to go for help in finding an obituary for an ancestor is your public library. They will have a reference book with mailing addresses and phone numbers for newspapers all across the country. This is the best place to start. If you are lucky, they will have a book that lists the newspapers by state, then city or town which is priceless if you don't know the name of the publication which should contain your ancestor's obituary.

If you want addresses of public libraries, your library should also have the ALA directory which will list all public libraries by state and county.

When requesting help from libraries, generally you will need to state an exact date of death. Even if you don't know the date of the obituary (if there was one), that will narrow the search for any employee who is looking through unindexed materials. You might just ask up front if the obituaries are indexed. Then you will know whether to even request the obituary or try to obtain the microfilm yourself.

It is possible to obtain microfilms by requesting your library to borrow the relevant copy on Inter-Library Loan so that you can search for the desired obituary yourself.

jb.

### KITH AND KIN

BY CHARLENE TALBOT

### THE BENTON COUNTY NEWSPAPER PROJECT

We all know how much genealogical information can be contained in an obituary, and one of the aims of our Society has been to help genealogists who may have had ancestors in Benton County by making local information available. Since the newspaper project has been in the works for eight or nine years, someone has suggested that an explanation of it might be a good subject for this column.

We talked to Ed Stratton about the beginning. As he recalled, the project started when the Gazette Times gave the Historical Society 32 microfilm reels of the old Benton County newspapers, with a cabinet to hold them. The reels go from 1865 to 1926, with some overlapping of weekly and daily papers. The Society had just finished listing grave markers in all the Benton County cemeteries and was looking around for a new project.

At first the plan was to abstract only births and deaths. Later marriage write-ups were added. A form for entering the information was made, the reels given numbers, and a sign-up sheet to adopt a reel was sent around at meetings for those who thought it might be fun to read through old newspapers. There are still blanks on this sign-up sheet, so no current members need feel left out! The public library in Corvallis and the OSU library also have these films and microfilm readers, so they can be accessed there, too. Parking is probably easiest at the Museum in Philomath.

Abstractions are entered chronologically. More than half of the reels have been adopted; many of these have been completed. An alphabetized computer list is being made, with copies for the Museum, the Corvallis/Benton County library, and the Society library. Copies

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### Kith and Kin continued...

!have also been made for several individuals who answer requests for lookups.

Reading these old newspapers takes a while. It's easy to get diverted. We came across one obituary where the elderly woman had had two uncles who served in the Revolution. One year Albany had five motorcars and Corvallis had six.. There are occasional stories about runaway horses, and each season there were announcements that drinking was not going to be put up with that year on the excursion trains to Newport.

As another way of putting this research to use, your columnist has decided to volunteer on the Internet Rootsweb site for obituaries called OBIT-LOOKUPS. It will be interesting to see how many queries will result. We will need to emphasize that the list is not yet complete. If the name a person is looking for is on the list, great! We'll look up the items of the film, and mail or e-mail them. For lookups more recent than 1926, the inquirer will need to know the exact date and write to the Corvallis library, or write to the Society's Mabelle Martsching and expect to pay for research.

Happy hunting!



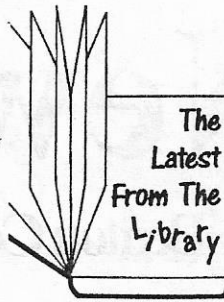
## HUMOR

### The Family

The Smiths were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower. They had included senators and Wall Street wizards.

They decided to compile a family history, a legacy for their children and grandchildren. They hired a fine author. Only one problem arose—how to handle that great-uncle Harvey, who was executed in the electric chair. The author said he could handle the story tactfully.

The book appeared. It said: "Great-uncle Harvey, occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death cam as a great shock."



## New Acquisitions

We have at last received six books from Higgins. In order to receive these reprints, the society sent to Higgins a copy of the reprint of the book, Benton County, Oregon, by David A. Fagan. In return we received six reprints of books of our choice totaling twice as many pages as we sent.

The books received are:

**List of Ex-Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Living in Iowa.**

**Revolutionary Soldiers and Their Descendents, Missouri Edition**

**Portrait and Biographical Record of South East Kansas**

**North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina**

**Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824**

**The "First Census" of Kentucky, 1790**

As of this writing, Jean Grube is preparing these books for placement in our library.

## QUERIES

Mabelle Martsching, our society researcher, received these queries and would like any help you can give her in locating these persons.

KIBBEY, Mary E., (nee VIRGIN) born July, 1839, Howard County, Missouri, married Tignal W. KIBBEY, Polk County, Oregon 23 October 1856. In 1880 census they were residing in Polk County. In 1900 at age 60, she was living in the household of her son-in-law Jasper N. WOOD in Blodgett precinct.

MCBEE, Francis Joseph (Joe). Unknown if living or dead. Think he grew up in the Corvallis area. Served in the Navy and was stationed at Coos Bay, Oregon. Probably born 1923-24. His mother's name was Dorothy MOSER MCBEE. A sister was Mary and he had two brothers, names unknown at this time. He was married to Patricia "Pat" MURPHY, possibly in Coos Bay, Oregon.



### AN INTERESTING NOTE FROM ROOTS-L

by Patricia Stubberud Bonacci

Montana is now in the process of changing all references to "squaw", as it is a derogatory word to our Native American population. All of the peaks, lakes, etc, with "Squaw" in the name are being changed. Something to keep in mind if you ever need to research places in Montana.

(In Lincoln County, Oregon, there is a creek called "Nigger Creek" probably named after Rueben Shipley, an early resident. Plans are underway to change its name.)

## AN OBITUARY

### ANOTHER FIREMAN GONE

May 1878: On Monday evening intelligence was received in this city to the effect that Mr. Aus. H. Perham, a late member of the Corvallis Fire Department, and President of the Corvallis Fire Department, and President of the Company to which he belonged—the H. & L. Co.—had died during the afternoon of the same day, at the residence of his brother, Mr. A. S. Perham, who resides on a farm on Soap Creek, about ten miles north of this city. Upon receipt of this sad intelligence Chief Buford ordered the fire bell to be tolled, which tolling caused many people to gather on the streets, some having already retired for the night, to see what the tolling of the bell meant. The death of Mr. Perham was altogether unexpected, as he was as well and hearty as usual when in the city last—the Tuesday previous to his death—and no one had ever suspected such a thing as him dying any ways soon! He was visiting the family of his brother just preparatory to the taking of a trip

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### What's In A Name

*Reprinted from an article by Myra Vanderpool Gormley from her column in the Portland Oregonian*

Tracing your family name and those who have passed down through the years is one of the most fascinating pursuits in genealogy. Surnames help to link bloodlines and can be a clue to the paternal ethnic origins, assuming the name has been a hereditary one for some time. Genealogy is the study of one's ancestors and connected families, while onomastics is the study of the origin and evolution of proper names. Many persons share the same surname but are unrelated.

Since many of our surnames have been "Americanized" through the years, don't be surprised if you learn that your British-sounding name was adopted along the way by ancestors who never set foot in the British Isles.

Contrary to popular and persistent myth, names were rarely changed intentionally by immigration workers at Ellis Island. The majority of passengers who were processed through the immigrant station there had their names and other personal information detailed on the ship's manifest before the vessel left the port of departure.

The purser or ship's officer was familiar with the name and ethnicity of the many passengers who typically used the port, since a given ship usually visited the same ports several times each year. Moreover, the captain and the medical officer swore affidavits to the accuracy of each group of lists. ...Records indicate that most name changes occurred during the naturalization process, not at Ellis Island.

Some of us descend from an ancestor who was

into Eastern Oregon when he was taken suddenly sick and died.

Aus. H. Perham was born in the city Indianapolis, Indiana, on the 23d day of April, 1839, consequently he was over 30 years of age. He has been a citizen of Corvallis for several years, and has always taken a very active part in the fire organizations of this city, therefore he had become very much attached to all the fire boys.

At a meeting of the H. & L. Company, of which he was a member, and its President at the time of his death, it was voted to attend his funeral as a company; also an invitation was extended to Young America to attend. There were quite a number of the firemen of both companies in attendance at the funeral, his remains being interred in the Locke burying ground, about six miles north of this city, which took place on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased had many good traits of character of which everyone is acquainted. He died a victim of strong drink. Peace unto his ashes.

*contributed by Mabelle Martsching*

adopted or reared by another family and simply took their surname. Many of us bear surnames that were adopted, usually unofficially, by our ancestors for various reasons. Others went through the formal process of having their names changed by a court.

Most of the hereditary surnames of Europe derive from:

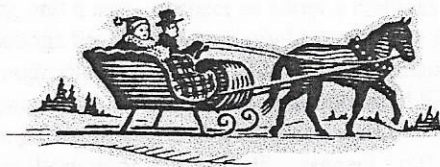
\*Patronymics, from the father's first name; John's son became Johnson.

\*Occupations, like Carpenter, Cartwright, or Smith.

\*Formal place names or topographical descriptions such as London, Atwater or Hill.

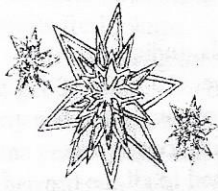
\*Nicknames, such as Goodall ("good ale") for an ale-taster or brewer, or Crookshanks, a bowlegged man or one with a crooked leg.....

More information about surnames, spelling problems and tracing ancestors is available in "RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees," [www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/lesson8.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/lesson8.htm).



### GENEALOGY CLASS

Beginning on January 24, Dannelle Aukerman will be teaching a beginning genealogy class. This is a Monday afternoon class beginning at 1 p.m. The cost is \$28.50. Check with LBCC's Benton Center for more details.



## Welcome to Our New Members

We have one new member this month.  
 We welcome **Becky Langstaff**.  
 Number of paid members is now approximately 74  
 Check information below to determine your status..

### Membership Information

President	David Kribs cdkribs@pioneer.net	929-6079
1st Vice Pres	Ken Bielman	758-3769
2nd Vice Pres	Charlene Talbot	929-6079
Secretary	Teri Greene mmteriAproxaxis.com	
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb newcombg@bec.orst.edu	929-5715
Librarian	Jean Grube	758-7618
Membership	Leila Crawford crawford@ucs.orst.edu	753-4153
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Burt dgburt@pioneer.net Janice Barclay jbarc@pioneer.net	424-3021 847-5610

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

Check your mailing label. A "0" following your name indicates paid dues. A "9" tells you that this is the last newsletter you will receive if dues are not paid.

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

## 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 and return books any time the library is open.

### Mailing Label Coding

The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:  
 S=Single; F=Family; E=Exchange.  
 Number is last of year; 8=1998  
 L0 is Charter Honorary Life Member



Stamp