

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

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Black Pioneers in Oregon

The book "A Peculiar Paradise: a History of Blacks in Oregon, 1788-1940" by Elizabeth McLagan points out that not all of our pioneer ancestors were white, even from the earliest times. Moses Harris [Black Harris] was as far west as Yellowstone by 1822 and guided missionaries and wagon trains to Oregon. In the census of 1850, 207 people were identified as black or mulatto. In 1844, the Legislative Committee of the Provisional Government of Oregon passed its first laws regarding Blacks in the Oregon Country. Slavery was declared illegal, and any slaves held were to be freed within three years. Any free Blacks eighteen or older were required to leave the area. Men had two years to leave while women had three. Blacks under the age of eighteen could stay, but would face the same restrictions once they reached that age. Blacks who did not leave were subject to arrest and trial. If they were found guilty of staying illegally, they were to be whipped a minimum of twenty and no more than thirty-nine times on their bare backs. This was to be repeated every six months until they left. This "Lash Law" was deemed too severe, and so in December of 1844, parts of the previous law were repealed. The whipping punishment was replaced with forced labor. If a Black person was found guilty of being in the Oregon Country illegally, that person was to be hired out publicly to whomever would make use of them for the shortest amount of time. When the work period had expired, the "employer" had six months to get the Black person out of the Oregon Country, or be fined \$1000. This law would have gone into effect in 1846, but was repealed in 1845. In September of 1849, another exclusion law was passed. This law forbade any Blacks from settling in the Oregon Country. Any already in residence were allowed to stay. Jacob Vanderpool was the only man to be expelled from Oregon because of his skin color. This exclusion law was repealed in 1854. Oregon passed its state constitution in November of 1857. On the popular ballot for the constitution, there were two separate issues included. Oregonians rejected slavery but passed another exclusion law. This law became part of the State Bill of Rights. In February of 1859, Oregon became the only state admitted to the Union with an Exclusion Law in its con-

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What's Happening

Show and Tell Sept. 11th

This month is your chance to learn what others have been doing all summer. Traditionally the September Program is for short presentations by the membership on their latest genealogical projects. Have you written your life history, traveled to far countries, or held a family reunion? Please bring stories, photo albums, books and articles that you are willing to share. DON'T BE SHY.

Oregon State Library Closed

The Oregon State Library building in Salem, Oregon, is currently receiving earthquake resistance and other repairs and improvements. Both the reference and genealogical research rooms will be closed from August 16 to September 17th, 1999. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may cause you. However we know all will appreciate the air conditioning, carpets, and other improvements. Until we reopen on the 17th, we suggest you try the Oregon State Archives. Should you have any questions, please contact Jim Willhite Librarian, Willamette Valley Genealogical Society at jwillhit@orednet.org.

New location of Genealogical Forum of Oregon

From I-5 northbound, take exit 299A, "OR 43/Macadam Avenue" Follow the signs for the Ross Island Bridge (US 26 East) You will need to loop around a rather long block to reach the onramp onto the bridge. Cross the Ross Island Bridge. First traffic light is SE Milwaukie Avenue. *Left turns are not permitted onto SE Milwaukie.* You can go one block past Milwaukie and turn left (across oncoming Powell Blvd traffic) onto SE 13th Place (and proceed one block north, and turn right onto SE Gideon) -- note that this can be difficult to do during heavy traffic. You can also go one block past Milwaukie, turn right onto SE 12th, go around the block and get on SE Milwaukie northbound (then go across Powell, and take the first right onto SE Gideon).
HOURS Sunday -- Noon - 5:00, Monday & Saturday -- 9:30 - 3:00, Tuesday & Thursday -- 9:30 - 9:00, Wednesday & Friday -- Closed. Email newsletter available at: <http://www.gfo.org/guest.htm>

LBCC-BCGS Fall genealogy Classes by Danell Knight

If you are interested in sharpening your genealogy skills and talking to others with like interests, it may be that the BCGS- and LBCC-sponsored genealogy classes of Danell Knight are for you. Here are your choices from page 66 of the LBCC catalog:

Beginning Genealogy Main Campus, 9/21 in T-213 at 7PM, 2 hrs; also Corvallis High School 9/20 in CHS-130 at 7PM, 2 hrs.

Genealogy on the Internet Main Campus 10/30 in B-207 from 9-3 PM; also Benton Center 10/20 in BC-201 from 9-4 PM; also Sweet Home 10/23 in SHCRT-4 from 9-3 PM.

Field Trip to Salt Lake City during Spring Term April 2-8, 2000. Leave on Sunday, return on Saturday. *If you haven't visited the world's largest genealogy library, this is an excellent opportunity to go with a great teacher, our own Danell Knight.*

Fall Garage Sale Sept. 18th

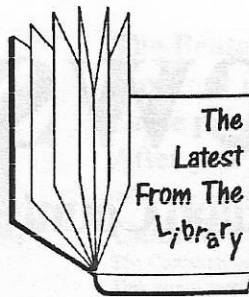
The Fall Garage Sale will be at Damaris Reynolds's house in the Timberhill Townhouse complex 8-1 PM September 18th. Contributions or help gladly received at 2928 NW 29th, call Damaris at 753-1810. Multiple garage sales will be held within Timberhill on that date. Park once and shop 'til you drop.

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stitution. The law was finally repealed in 1926. Not everyone in Oregon was opposed to Black settlement. There were many petitions signed by White friends of Black settlers asking for exemptions of the laws. Others submitted petitions that became legislative bills which would have repealed the Exclusion Law, had any of them passed.

Pioneer Blacks in Benton Co.

REUBEN SHIPLEY & MARY JANE HOLMES
Reuben arrived in the Oregon Territory in 1853, with his owner, and was granted his freedom upon arrival. Reuben had to leave behind his wife and sons in Missouri because they were owned by another family. Once he had arrived in Oregon, he tried to buy his family, but their owner refused to sell him his sons, and Reuben's wife had died



Many thanks to those who helped with inventorying the library during the summer. Our library is growing so fast that it took the better part of three days. Thanks to Damaris Reynolds, Lee Rudisill, Mary Yoke, Betty Swan, Charlene Talbot, Gene Newcomb, and David Kribs (for building a shelf so that could move some of the little-used books into the hall closet). Don't forget to look there if

you find a book missing. The vertical files are nearly filled, also. The drawers hold material on States, Countries, Miscellaneous, and small family materials. Members might wish to explore some of the possibilities there, as not all are listed on the shelf list. New holdings include:

Hunter Family Records and Gleanings Relative to the Family of Hunter (VF); Gleanings Relative to the Family of Adam Hawkes (VF) Gifts of Damaris Reynolds

Central Illinois Chronicles, by Tregillis. 3 Volumes - 1984, 85, 86; Linn County, Oregon, Pioneer Settlers, by Miles & Milligan. Vol. 9*; Oregon Pioneers, Linn County DLC Holders by 1855, Vol 17, by Miles & Milligan*; Marion County Marriage Records, Vols II, IV, IX*; The Montana Locator, by Laurie Nicklas; NEGHS Register Index of Persons, Vols 1 through 148. 4 Vols

Official Varieties & Synonyms and Christian Names in Ireland, by Matheson. Gift of Pat Coolican

*Gifts of Roberta Bier so marked

CDs:

Passenger & Immigration Lists, 1821-1850 & 1538-1940

U.S. Ports Passenger Lists, 1820-1830

Maryland Genealogies & Marriages, 1634-1820

Pennsylvania Wills, 1682-1834

FTM's Family Archive Viewer, Version 5.0

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. 9 CDs, covering Vols 1 through 138, 1847 to 1994, with condensed index

Birth Index, Southeastern Pennsylvania, 1680-1800

while he was on the trail. Mary Jane Holmes came to Oregon with her parents Robin and Polly in 1844 as the slaves of Nathaniel Ford. The wagon train they came with also included Black pioneer George Washington Bush, and was led by renowned guide, Moses "Black" Harris. Nathaniel Ford and Robin Holmes had a long court battle over Mary Jane and her Oregon-born siblings regarding their status as slaves in an area where slavery was illegal. At one point, Ford even threatened to take the children back to Missouri and sell them. After a court order set them free in 1853, Mary Jane continued to live with the Fords until she married Reuben Shipley in 1857. Even though she had been freed by the court, Reuben still had to pay Ford \$750 for his wife. The family was well-liked, and in time, included six children. In 1861, Reuben donated two acres of his land to Benton County for Mt. Union Cemetery with the restrictions that Blacks be allowed to be buried there. Reuben, his wife, and one daughter were later buried in this cemetery.

Calendar of Coming Events

Put November 13th on your calendar for the annual Thanksgiving auction [formerly Christmas auction]. Contribute an item or just come and enjoy the spirited bidding. We'll also have a table of items to raffle. Remember, our book and CD money comes from this. We are collecting ideas for heritage Christmas gifts for children or grandchildren. The best ideas will be published in October. Those in attendance at the June meeting heard Damaris describe a scrapbook idea [more in October]. Let's have **your** ideas or accomplishments.

Queries and Notes

SQUIRE LITTLE RYCRAFT

From: Sandy Nelson <SNelson@hq.dir.ca.gov>
8700 Briarcliff Ln., Riverside, CA 92508

Any additional information would be appreciated.

According to Squire Little Rycraft, his parents were native to Virginia, went to Butler County, OH in the beginning of the 1800's and left for Tippecanoe County, IN in 1830. They appear in the 1830 census for Butler Co., OH. I received copies from Carroll and Eleanor Rycraft, who started the RyCraft Cookie Stamp Co. in Corvallis. There is a Rycraft that is in her 90's in Merrill, OR. Her name is Hazel McNeill. She is one of Squire's son's daughter.

Fagan, David: History of Benton County, Oregon; Portland 1885: RYCRAFT, S. L.—was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1828. 2 years later his parents moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he remained until 1850. He then started with several others and with horse teams to cross the plains to California, arriving in Placerville in the middle of August. He then followed mining in the Golden State until February, 1851, when he came north to Yreka, and found employment in a butcher's stall under an oak tree, and owned by O. F. CLARK, then a resident of Benton county. He afterwards followed freighting until the summer of 1851, when he was joined by his brother George RYCRAFT, who had crossed the plains that season. In 1852 he came to Oregon and then went to the "Sound Country," but not liking that place again returned to Oregon, and in 1853 located a donation claim in the Alsea Valley, and with David and John FUDGE, and Henry CLARK, built a saw-mill on the south prong of the Alsea river. In 1860 Mr. RYCRAFT disposed of his mill property, since which time he has paid all attention to farming and stock-raising, and is now the most prominent farmer in the Alsea valley. In August 1858, he was married to Miss Sarah J. HAWLEY. They have a family of 10 living children and one deceased, viz: Alma May (now Mrs. John WREN), Emma F., George H., Joseph C., John H., Leona B., Leonidas H., Mark P., Ethal M., (Edna H, deceased), and Mildred.

1860 CENSUS, Lloyds Precinct, Corvallis PO, Benton Co, OR: RYCRAFT, Squir L. 32, Carpenter, OH; Sarah J. 17, IA; Alma M. 1, OR.

RYCRAFT, George H. 45, Carpenter, OH; Miranda J. 18, IL; Elvira 7/12 OR

1870 CENSUS, Corvallis PO, Benton Co, OR: SHIPLEY, A. D. 27, MO; RYCRAFT, S. L. 42, OH, farmer; Sarah J. 27, IA; Alma May 11, OR; Emma F. 8, OR; George H. 6 OR; Joseph C. 4, OR; John A. 2, OR; Leona B. OR

Family Group Sheets as provided by Sandy Nelson:

SQUIRE LITTLE RYCRAFT [son of JOSEPH RYCRAFT & MARY HOFFMAN] b. Sept. 30, 1828 in Butler Co., OH d. Mar. 4, 1925 in Alsea, Benton Co., OR md. Aug. 1, 1858 in Monroc, Benton Co., OR SARAH JANE HAWLEY [dt of CHATMAN HAWLEY & CAZIA—ed note: this is KEZIAH STARR] b. June 14, 1843 in Van Buren Co., IA d. Aug. 4, 1915 at Alsea. CH: 1. ALMA MAY b. July 6, 1859 Alsea d. Mar. 30, 1906 Bonnie Glen, Alberta, Can. md. 1879 JOHN WREN; 2. EMMA FRANCIS b. Nov. 5, 1861 Alsea, d. Feb. 14, 1935 Salem, OR, md. 1886 ALBERT ROWLAND; 3. GEORGE HOFFMAN b. Jul. 23, 1863 Alsea, d. June 16, 1941 Corvallis, OR, md. 1892 CORA ADELE HEADRICK; 4. JOSEPH CHATMAN b. June 22, 1866 Alsea, d. Mar. 5, 1952 Burbank, CA, md. 1895 EMMA JANE BARCLAY; 5. JOHN ALPHAUSS b. Dec. 22, 1867 Alsea, d. July 13, 1945 Corvallis, OR, md. 1899 NINA HEARING; 6. LEONA BELLE b. Mar. 25, 1870 Alsea, d. Nov. 9, 1952 Salem, OR, md. 1888 EDWARD ROWLAND; 7. LEONIDAS HAWLEY b. June 20, 1872 Alsea, d. Jan. 24, 1948 Corvallis, OR, md. 1894 MARY REBECCA VERNON; 8. MARK POMEROY b. Jan. 15, 1876 Alsea, d. Nov. 9, 1973 Corvallis, OR, md. 1909 HELEN PEARL STOCKSTILL; 9. ETHEL MAUD b. Sep., 15, 1877 Alsea, d. Aug. 21, 1961 Portland, OR, md. 1902 OLE BYRON REED; 10. EDNA LUELLA AGUSTA b. Aug. 8, 1880 Alsea d. Apr. 3, 1882; 11. MILDRED BEATRICE b. Apr. 26, 1883 Alsea, d. May 24, 1964 Seattle, WA, md. 1901 JAMES LONGBOTTOM; 12. CHARLES ARDEN b. Jan. 15, 1885 Alsea, d. Mar. 29, 1969 Corvallis, OR, md. 1911 PEARL ROVA SEITS.

JOSEPH RYCRAFT b. c.1775 maybe in VA D. 1835 Tippecanoe Co., IN md. MARY HOFFMAN d. 1835. CH: 1. HARRIET d. bef 1904 md. JAMES READDY [of Dayton, Tippecanoe Co., IN]; 2. ELIZABETH d. bef 1904 md. EDWARD BURKHALTER [of Clinton Co., IN]; 3. GEORGE H. b. c. 1815 Ohio d. 1891 Alsea, Benton CO., OR [see 1860 census]; 4. JOHN H. b. Nov. 10, 1817 Butler Co., OH, d. Sep. 18, 1893 Dayton, IN, md. 1852 ELIZABETH M. CHISSOM; 5. MARGARET ANN b. c. 1820, d. bef 1904, md. PETER GOLDSBURG [of Dayton, IN]; 6. JOSEPH H. b. c. 1818, d. bef 1904 [of Alsea in 1856]; 7. CATHERINE b. Dec. 10, 1823 md. 1842 LORENZO DOW CHISSOM; 8. MARY ANNE d. bef 1904 md. 1844 ELI BURKHALTER [of Clinton Co., IN]; 9. SQUIRE LITTLE [above].

WILLS, BOOKS A and B, Benton County, Oregon, Page 14. HAWLEY, Chapman Dated 19 June 1857. To be buried in the burying ground of C.G. BELKNAP according to M.E. Church.

Son eldest David HAWLEY. 2nd Jesse 3rd Sewal Ransom HAWLEY, 4th and youngest Leander Hamline HAWLEY. Daughter Sarah Jane HAWLEY. Grandson Arthur Warrington HAWLEY. Wife Kezia HAWLEY. Exec: Samuel F. STARR. Wit: Lorenzo D. GILBERT, George GILBERT, M.C. STARR, Codicil but not dated to wit: Lorenzo GILBERT, George GILBERT, Philander GILBERT

Shirley Hill, a former long-time member of our society, died August 6th.

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 munteri@proaxis.com	
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb newcombg@bcc.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.

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.

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