

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

Volume Sixteen
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June, 2001

THE PROGRAM FOR JUNE

Our June meeting will be our annual potluck and book sale following the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Bring enough food for four people and invite your friends to join us for a social time between 11-1.

All sorts of books are welcome for our book sale. Light summer reading is always a good seller—so are “how to” books or any others which you have read and are ready to pass on.

The library will be open after the meeting as usual.

This will be our last meeting until September.

NGS CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND

by: Lee Gentemann

I'm not usually interested in attending genealogy conferences, unless they're being held very close to my home, or have speakers or subjects that are of specific interest to me. In the case of the National Genealogical Society Annual Conference that was held in Portland from May 16 through May 19 of this year, all of these criteria were met, as well as it being a National Conference that might not be held in this area again for at least another ten years.

I was able to choose which of the more than 250 seminars or labs, and which luncheons or dinners I wished to attend. This allowed me to browse the unbelievable assortment of vendor booths in the exhibit hall, and to volunteer some time at the sales tables where our BCGS books were being offered for sale. By choosing seminar subjects of particular interest to me, I came away from the conference with several new resources to search. I learned of some holdings at the Oregon Historical Society, that I had never heard about, like “Pension Records for participants in the Oregon Indian Wars”, and I learned about some holdings to be found at major libraries, called “National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections” (referred to as NUCMC), which is a collection of card catalog entries from a combination of most major libraries in the U.S.. The NUCMC series of close to 1,000 volumes, is only available at a limited number of libraries, but we in Oregon, can find them at the OSU Library in Corvallis, the UofO Library in Eugene, and Portland State University in Portland. There is also an on-line version of about 25% of this resource, at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>. The best way to use this resource is the actual printed volumes which cover a forty year accumulation of publications by the Library of

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KITH AND KIN

BY CHARLENE TALBOT

Edna Wiese — Evolution of a Genealogist

“I became interested in genealogy in 1940,” Edna Wiese recalls. “A cousin of my mother’s made some charts in connection with the 100th anniversary of our Baptist magazine. She loaned them to my mother to copy and that whetted my appetite and I went on from there. After I got out of college, two or three times a year I would get a spurt of writing letters to courthouses.

“But back before that my parents used to go on Sunday drives and they’d point out houses and farms where our relatives had lived and I would take photographs. In later years I used to take my mother and several cousins for Sunday drives listen to their stories and memories. Of course, they all talked together, but in one way or another I managed to get their reminiscences written down.

“Later I realized the value of all those stories. So many people have no idea of what it was like to grow up on a farm fifty or a hundred years ago.”

Edna has now completed two thick Wiese books which she has put into special binders. She was able to go to Germany while she still had an aunt living and saw the home church and met a lot of cousins. She has completed Volume One (386 pages) on her mother’s family. She made photocopies of a well-worn blanket that came over the Oregon Trail and has added pictures, patterns and anecdotes. “I put in everything that interested me,” she says.

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Kith and Kin continued

One set of Edna's ancestors — the Cyrus family — came to Oregon with the 1847 wagon train. Another set — the Sutherlins — came in 1850. Sutherlin, Oregon is named for those people.

"What I did was all trial and error to start," she admits. "I didn't have any idea how to do genealogy."

She began taking classes at Linn-Benton Community College. "The teacher came down from Portland," she remembers. "I belonged first to the Portland Society and the one in Eugene." During those years she got acquainted with Harriet Moore, the first archivist for OSU and an authority on Corvallis and Benton County, and Mary Peffer, who was from a local pioneer family in Linn County and in the DAR. Also Velma Parsons and Mildred Hawkins. These and some others began meeting in the basement of the Corvallis library. Thus she became one of the charter members of the Benton Genealogical

When Edna realized how much was being forgotten about how ordinary people lived a generation ago, she began teaching classes at LBCC on writing one's life story. She taught these classes, four times a week, for ten years and says she thoroughly enjoyed it. She gave them up only when forced by failing health. Clearly many of her students enjoyed it, too, as they took the classes again and again. One still hears comments about what great classes they were.

"I loved teaching," she says, "especially working with seniors." She points out to beginning genealogists: One source of information that a lot

Help Needed! The last paragraph of Lee Gentemann's article on the NGS Conference talks about members attending the next conference in Milwaukee. Probably not too many of us will be able to take in that event which points up the fact that we really need a volunteer to arrange special excursions for us. If there had been such a person to perhaps arrange for a van to take members to the conference, I feel sure more of us would have attended at least one day of this special event. I'm very sorry this didn't happen. A few of us went on Saturday and it was indeed a fabulous experience.

Ed. JB



NEW BOOKS

by Ken Bielman

* The following are books, etc added to the library since the May newsletter.

- *936 New Eng The Great Migration, Immigrants To New England, 1634-35, Vol 2,C-F. Anderson.
- *1937 MIG American Passenger Arrival Records, Tepper. Paperback. Gift of Ken Bielman.
- *1938 HT National Archives, Guide To Genealogical Research in the; 3rd Edition
- *1939 MIL WWI Draft Registration 1917-1918. "Uncle We Are Ready." Heritage Quest; John J. Newman. Paperback.
- *1940 HT/VF National Archives. "Black Family Research." Information Paper 108.
- *1941 NEW ENG Immigrants to New England, 1700-1775. Bolton. Gift of Damaris Reynolds.
- *1942 ENG English Origins of American Colonists. New York Genealogical & Biographical Record. Gift of Damaris Reynolds.
- *1943 VT Vermont Newspaper Abstracts, 1783-1816. Rising. Gift of Damaris Reynolds.



FAMILY REUNIONS

The 2001 Reunion of VERNON FAMILY and Associated Families and friends will be held at Maple Grove in Avery Park, Corvallis, OR on Sunday, July 29, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. This is traditionally a potluck. Y'all come.

Mary Vernon France

The SEITS FAMILY REUNION has been changed from August to September 16, 2001 at Riveredge Park on the Alsea River just down river from the Five Rivers Bridge. This is also a POTLUCK affair. Frances Seits Grotelfund

If you are a descendent of Benjamin and Abigail Hyland or Amos Daman and Rachel Crow Hyland or other Hylands, please contact Amy Seyfried about a June reunion. Her e-mail address is:
aseyfried@cushmanrealty.com

People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors.

Edmund Burke, (1729-97)

"Reflections on the Revolution in France"

GUARDIANSHIP

A woman in early days did not automatically have rights of managing her children as long as there were other adult males around such as her parents, older sons in the family, her brothers, deceased husband's brothers, or parents of deceased husband.

The court almost always appointed one of these as guardian of her minor children (under 18 in some states, under 21 in others).

If there were no adult males, the court might even choose a non-relative before giving her guardianship rights. I don't know what the reasoning behind all this might be but maybe they thought a female was unable to manage things as well as a man in those days.

Alvie L. Davidson CGRS, Roots-L

NGS Conference continued

Congress. These were only two examples of some excellent ideas to be found among all the presentations.

Among the more than 200 vendors were other county and state genealogical societies from Oregon, several state societies, in addition to the large number of genealogical book distributors and dealers of genealogy materials. Large displays were presented by groups like LDS Family Search, Ancestry.com, Rootsweb, FamilyTreemaker, Heritage Quest, BLM Land Records, Everton's Publishers, and Heritage Press.

The hottest item for sale at the conference was The 1880 U.S. Census and National Index on CD which contains the complete 1880 United States Census plus the National Index. Census Information is shown by household or institution for approximately 50 million individuals. This set of 56 CD's is being offered for sale by LDS Family Search for only \$49.00 inc. Shipping. Needless to say, they sold their entire inventory before the conference was over.

Heritage Trail Press displayed their collection of old newspapers on CD-Rom. They already have Oregon newspapers from the nineteenth century available today and are promising still more in the future. Details may be found at: www.OregonHistory.com.

There were nearly 1800 registered attendees, plus an unknown number of people who came for one day to browse the vendor booths in the exhibit hall, or to attend the Society Fair which was held in the evening on May 16th. I ran into several members of the Benton County Genealogical Society, one new member signed up on the spot, several likely candidates for membership and countless interesting with Benton County Connections. I even ran into two of my cousins who were in attendance.

Thanks to the Genealogical Council of Oregon, our Society was able to display all of the books that we currently have for sale and as a result, we sold half of the books taken to the conference, for a total of \$655 and by participating in the Society Fair, we displayed the books available for sale and handed out order forms, as well as distributing membership materials.

For those of you who missed this conference, the next one will be in the year 2002 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Start saving for a fabulous experience!

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS WITH CENSUS RECORDS

Do not stop with Soundex finds -- do look at the original record.

Do copy the information at the top of the page in the header.

Do not assume census indexes are correct or complete.

Do not assume spellings are as you think.

Do not assume relationships are exactly as stated.

Do not assume a wife is the mother of all or any of the listed children.

Do not assume ages listed are correct.

Don't forget to copy all of the entries for the surname in the county. And better look over the neighbors too! Four Smiths in a row with a Jones in between could mean Jones is married to a daughter.

Don't think the records before 1850 can't help. They may only have one name listed, but at least you'll know how many to look for in a family.

Do believe that all census records are important -- even the earlier ones.

Do make use of the Veteran's column in the 1840 census.

Do use the 1890 Veterans (and widows of Veterans) Schedules.

Do use the state census records.

Do not believe all census data to be true and correct.

Do study the enumerator's handwriting so you can make comparisons.

Do watch for families split onto two pages with the surname not repeated at the top of the next page.

Do try to find your ancestors in every census taken in their life time.

Do check family histories and other sources of neighbors who might have come from the same state to locate a town of residence if you can not determine that information on your ancestor.

Do remember that when searching an entire town for ancestor, the town enumeration may be split and not be kept together on the film --- cities are often listed separately from the town they are connected with.

Do take note of real estate and personal property values to determine if a deed or will search is appropriate.

Do use maps in conjunction with your census searching.

Do search across state, county, and town lines if your ancestors lived near a border.

Do go back and look again at census records to see what you might have missed -- especially if you have learned of new surnames (maiden names) or other family connections.

Do consider typographical errors when using indexes -- know the keyboard and what letters could have been punched in by mistake.

Don't think census information gives all the answers.

Don't forget the 1900 veterans census if your ancestor was in the military. Widows are also listed.

Don't forget about state census records.

Be careful - "IA" on some census means Indiana and not Iowa. Shirley Hornbeck - MY HOME PAGE: <<http://www.s-hornbeck.com/home.htm>> from Roots-L



MEMBERSHIP NEWS
Our membership now stands at
136 members.

Membership Information

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Danell Aukerman | 745-2003 |
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Dues are \$10.00 single and \$13.00 family per calendar year.
 Web page URL <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbentgs/>

Canadian Interest Group

The Canadian Interest Group is for those searching for their roots in Canada. The next meeting of this group will be in September. Call Pat Rawlinson, 752-2243, for further info. E-mail: sprawlinson@proaxis.com

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.

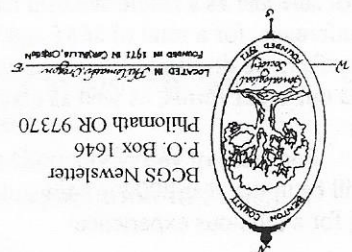
Please Note: When we rent the dining hall from the U.M. Church, this does not entitle us to use of the kitchen attached. It is off limits to us.

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.

Stamp

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

Mailing Label Coding



Darrell A. Kahl

Jan. 8, 1935 — Aug. 5, 2001

Darrell A. Kahl of Waldport, formerly of Corvallis, died Sunday of

cancer. He was 66.

He was born in Grants Pass to Arthur and Netta Criswell Kahl. He graduated from Marshfield High School in 1953 and from the University of Oregon in 1959. He had worked as a commercial plan examiner for the cities of Eugene, where he lived from 1955 to 1986, and Corvallis, where he lived from 1986 until this year.

He married Zira M. Olney Sept. 5, 1953, in Riverside, Calif.

He was a member of the Albany Pistol Club, International Commercial Builders Association, and a genealogical society. His interests were sailing, pistols and buildings.

Survivors include his wife; son, Kevin of Portland; daughter, Jurinda Kahl of Ridgefield, Wash.; and two grandchildren.

A private service will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Poole-Larsen Funeral Chapel, Waldport. Memorial donations can be made to the American Brain Tumor Association, 2720 River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018-4110.

taught there 18 years. She wrote and published a book, "Lobster Valley and Friends," a history of Lobster Valley from her memories.

She married Casey Bowen July 29, 1930, in Lobster Valley.

She was a member of the Nazarene Church of Alsea and Philomath. She enjoyed flower gardening, sewing, clam digging and camping.

Survivors include her sons, Darrel of Silver Lake and Jack of Alsea; daughter, Cheryl Shaffer of Sparks, Nev.; 19 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1992; son, Dee in 1994; and great-grandson, David Nelson in 1977.

A graveside service will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 30, at Alsea Cemetery. Stephen Hendrix will officiate. McHenry Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Lola S. Bowen

Aug. 20, 1910 — June 28, 2001

Lola S. Bowen of Philomath died Thursday at Corvallis Manor. She was 90.

Born to Clarence and Pearl Ervin Sapp in Lobster Valley, she graduated from Alsea High School in 1928. She attended Oregon Normal School, now Western Oregon University, in Monmouth for two years before transferring to Oregon State University where she graduated in 1959. She began teaching first grade at Philomath Elementary School in 1959 and

Matuszak

John and Vlasta "Vee" Matuszak of Corvallis will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 24, at Michael's Landing in Corvallis.

Gary and Judy Hclt of Bend, Jean Jebens of Vancouver, Wash., Tony and Joanna Anderson of Tualitin and Jeanne Cox of Springfield are hosting the event.

John Matuszak and Vlasta Havelka were married June 23, 1951, at The Little Chapel of the Chimes in Portland. Chaplain John W. Beard officiated. After the ceremony, the 10 members of the wedding party had dinner at Burns Restaurant in Portland. The next day the couple left for a honeymoon in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. On the way back to Portland, Vlasta experienced her first camping trip.

Ten days after returning to Portland, John received notice to report to Fort Monmouth, N.J., in preparation for a tour of active duty with the Army Signal Corps. He was stationed in West Germany. The Matuszaks were reunited Nov. 22, 1952. They traveled across the United States back to Portland in a 1948 Chevy Convertible.

John graduated from the School of Engineering in Oregon State University in



John and Vlasta Matuszak

1950 as an ROTC 2nd Lieutenant. After returning from Germany, he worked in several machine manufacturing firms in Oregon.

Vlasta worked in Portland at Oliver Corporation and the State 4-H Department at Oregon State University.

The Matuszaks have enjoyed square dancing for 28 years, and recently switched to ballroom dancing.

2001