

THE BULLETIN

of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.
Portland, Oregon



Volume 59, Number 1
September 2009

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

1505 SE Gideon Street • P.O. Box 42567,
Portland, Oregon 97242-0567
voice or fax: 503-963-1932 • website: www.gfo.org

OFFICERS

President Lyleth Winther
Vice President Janet Irwin
Secretary Gwen Newborg
Treasurer Jeanette Hopkins
Directors-at-Large Bruce Conrad, Cathy Lauer
Endowment Committee Marty Krauter

MEMBERSHIP

- \$40 **Individual** - 12 months - OR - \$80 -25 months
(The Bulletin & Insider will be mailed to
your listed address)
- \$35 **Individual** - 12 months - OR - \$70 Individual -
25 months. Discount for Bulletin & Insider
received by e-mail)
- \$55 **Joint*** - 12 months - OR - \$100 Joint* - 25 months
*A joint membership is for two people who live
at the same address; you may specify two e-mail
addresses. (Discount for Bulletin & Insider
received by e-mail.)
- \$15 **Student**
- \$20 **Libraries & Societies**
- \$750 **Life-Individual** ~ (Also available in
3 annual payments of \$270)
- \$1,000 **Life-Joint*** ~ (Also available in
3 annual payments of \$425)
- \$50-\$99 **Sustaining** ~ Name published in Insider?
 Yes No
(2 guest passes for non-member)
- \$100 **Supporting** ~ Name published in Insider?
 Yes No
(4 guest passes for non-member)
- \$250-\$500 **Patron**, 12 months ~ Name published
in Insider Yes No
(6 guest passes for non-member & 5% off
merchandise & books)

Subscriptions to The Bulletin are a benefit of Genealogical Forum of Oregon membership

Please send membership dues
or correspondence regarding membership to

Membership Committee at the address above.

**For information about the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon
and its activities, visit www.gfo.org.**

THE BULLETIN

Bulletin Editorial Team:

Judith Beaman Scott, Carol Ralston Surrency,
Susan LeBlanc, Mickey Sieracki

Column Editors:

Eileen Chamberlin, Susan LeBlanc, Connie Lenzen,
Alene Reaugh, Judi Scott, Harvey Steele,
Carol Ralston Surrency, Lyleth Winther

Layout & Design:

Diane Wagner

Proofreader:

Bonnie LaDoe

Deadlines for submissions to the BULLETIN:

September issue – July 1 December issue – October 1
March issue – January 1 June issue – April 1

Send submissions to:
gfbulletin@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those
of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc. The society is a
non-profit organization as classified by the Internal Revenue
Service. As such, gifts, contributions, and devices made to
the Society are 100 percent tax deductible to the donors.
Federal Tax ID# 93-6026015

THIS PERIODICAL IS INDEXED IN PERSI

Thank you

**To all the people who helped
put this issue together ~**

Publisher:

Loretta Welsh

Printers: Dixie Read, Jim Morrow, Bruce Conrad

Assembling Crew: Shirlie & Bill Durkheimer, Jean
& Richard Johnson, Denali & Dick Porter, Bea
Richter, Susan Keller, Jane Olsen, Dick Coovert,
Jim Morrow

Labeling Crew: Agnes Nuttbrock, Muriel Koberstein,
Bob & Marianne Shug

Post Office Delivery:

Ray Ashmun

FALL SEMINAR

We welcome....

BEVERLY RICE, CG

**Of Coos Bay, Oregon
A national speaker &
current treasurer of the
Board for Certification
of Genealogists**



Seminar Features

- Book Vendor
- Genealogical Treasures
- Other Genealogical Societies
- GFO Surplus Book Sale

October 31, 2009

**Milwaukie Elks Lodge
in Milwaukie, Oregon**

*See reverse for
directions to the site!*

Hosted by

Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Check our website—www.gfo.org

- **Breaking Through Brick Walls**
- **Newspaper Research**
- **An Ancestral Journey**
- **Railroads & Their Role in Western Migration**



RICE FALL SEMINAR SIGN-UP FORM October 31, 2009

Name _____ Member # _____

Phone? or Email _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

MEMBERS

{ } \$38 if received **by Oct. 24th** { } \$45.00 if received **after Oct. 24th (no lunch)**

NON-MEMBERS: () \$43 **before Oct. 24th** () \$50 **after Oct. 24th (no lunch)**

{ } Lunch: \$12.00. Must be requested **by Oct. 24th** TOTAL \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

OR "GFO", PO BOX 42567, PORTLAND OR 97242-0567

Refund Policy: For cancellations received after "7 days prior to event date*", refunds will be made in the amount of the registration fee less a \$10.00 cancellation fee; lunch fees are non-refundable after that date.

LUNCH
The buffet luncheon for \$12 will include two hot buffet items and three cold buffet items, plus potatoes, vegetable, rolls, & beverage. All coffee, tea, hot water included. Lunch in the Elks Dining Room with payment for lunch.
Space available for brown baggers, too.

REGISTRATION AT SEMINAR: 8-9 A.M. Oct. 31, 2009 SATURDAY
First Class starts at 9:15 a.mwith a morning break, one-hour lunch, afternoon break, program ends about 3:30 p.m. Snacks & drinks at morning and afternoon breaks come with your price of admission.

TOPICS FOR THE SEMINAR

Beverly Rice, CG is the Director of American Studies for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies and has been a volunteer librarian at the Coos Bay Family History Center since 1989. She is a teacher and lecturer in historical and genealogical topics with a special interest in migration. She is treasurer for the Board for Certification of Genealogists. She delights in helping others break down brickwalls by teaching the skills that will allow them to pull evidence out of the most ordinary record.

Breaking Through Brick Walls: Using Timelines in Genealogical Research

Timelines are a crucial key to breaking down brick walls. Learn how to create them and how to read them.

Newspaper Research: A Little Bit of History on Each Page.

Newspaper digitalization projects are making newspapers accessible. Learn how to get the most out of newspapers.

An Ancestral Journey: Charting Family Migration

Learn about the variety of records that you can find to track your family's migration.

Railroads and Their Role in Western Migration.

Railroads opened the West. Learn about their development and their effect on our ancestors.

SITE of SEMINAR:
Milwaukie Elks Lodge
13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd
Milwaukie, Oregon

Driving Directions: On McLoughlin Blvd. (Oregon Hwy 99E), 1/2 mile south of the town of Milwaukie. Located between SE Park Avenue (traffic light to the north) and the Bomber (airplane to the south). On the west side of the street. Look for the Milwaukie Elks Lodge sign near the boulevard.

MAILING ADDRESS:
Fall Seminar '09
Genealogical Forum of Oregon
PO BOX 42567
PORTLAND OR 97242-0567
More Info.....
PHONE: 503-963-1932
WEBSITE: <www.gfo.org>
LIBRARY HOURS
M,T,W,Th—9:30am-5pm
Sat 9:30am-3pm Sun Noon-5pm

THE BULLETIN

of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 59, Issue 1

September 2009

SPECIAL FEATURES

- A Brief History of the Volga Germans* by Brent Mai..... 3
- GFO Writing Contest Winner:
Collision on Altoona's 'Front Porch' by Bonnie LaDoe 10

REGULAR COLUMNS

- For the Record** ~ *Compiled Sources and the Internet* by Connie Lenzen 17
- Oregon Snapshots** ~ *The Cornish in Oregon* by Alene Reaugh 20
- Written in Stone** ~ *The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth* by Randy Fletcher..... 21
- Relics** ~ *Iron in the Blood and Breath in the Lung – Hand Painted
Porcelain Heirlooms* by Harvey Steele 25
- Story Teller** ~ *Portland State University, My Family, and the
Last 50 Years* by Gerald Lenzen 28
- State by State** ~ *West Virginia Research* by Judith Beaman Scott 30
- Extracts** ~ *1874 Columbia County Land Assessments* by Jim Rogers..... 32
- Book Reviews** ~ by Susan LeBlanc
- *The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies
of the United States*.....41
 - *Dreams of the West; A History of the Chinese in Oregon 1850-1950* 42

Letter from the President . . .

Welcome members and friends to the second year of four co-editors, working together, putting out The Bulletin. Their theme this past fiscal year was meant to celebrate the State of Oregon's 150th birthday. We wish them luck and look forward to this year's selection of articles, plus the winning stories from the 2009 Writing Contest. Any suggestions, contact me or the Bulletin staff.

Saturday, Aug. 1, was our Surplus Book Sale and Open House. Our Membership team leader, Marj Enneking, reported that out of 109 folks present, 33 were guests. The others were our 20 some dedicated volunteers who ran the "show," plus 56 members who also came for the tours, the computer demos, checking out the DNA Information table, getting answers to their brick wall problems from the Ask the Experts group, and to share a piece of cake and plenty of cold punch. Yes, it was 94 degrees that day! Then, there were the folks who were seen lugging out armfuls of books on their favorite locality or subject. That means more money to buy books, and less to move next year when Tri-Met bumps us out of our present location.

Research Assistant Nathan Haines reported on Aug. 3, that 15 guests came for our Free Monday session. It looks like our press releases to different community newspapers plus The Oregonian paid off. Former President Don also sent flyers and invitations to 30 some regional genealogy societies. Hopefully, people are getting the word about our great library, and our friendly volunteers who can help them with their research.

We hope you are having great success with your research this year, and are looking forward to the coming speakers and topics at this fall's Monthly Programs. The Fall seminar with Beverly Rice is on tap for October 31st, plus the mini-classes being set up for fall should give you new clues in your research.

— Lyleth Winther
lylawl@verizon.net or leave a message at GFO

Letter from the Editor . . .

During the past year we explored the history of Oregon for the Sesquicentennial, but now we begin this new Bulletin year with a renewed focus on genealogy. We're excited about the new columns we're adding, and hope they will appeal to you all. Each issue will feature an article about one of the many groups that helped settle the state. This time, Brent Mai tells the fascinating story of the Volga Germans who settled here and gives us a great deal of research information. There will be an article on researching in other states each issue, so if you want to know about a particular state, or can share your knowledge about one, please let us know. Connie is starting a new series of articles too, about finding sources on the internet, which will be very helpful to many of us. Of course, we have the Writing Contest first place story, written by Bonnie LeDoe about a ladle and a shipwreck, and most of our regular columns in this issue as well. I hope you all find something of interest in The Bulletin and learn something new. I know I did.

— Judi Scott
rb5522@ aol.com

A Brief History of the Volga Germans

By Brent Mai

At the invitation of Catherine the Great (1729-1796), 30,623 colonists primarily from the central region of present-day Germany founded 106 colonies along the unsettled Russian steppe near the banks of the Volga between 1764 and 1772. These original colonists were joined in 1812 by 181 mostly German soldiers who had been a part of Napoleon's Army when it invaded Russia. Beginning in 1848, a group of Mennonite colonists from West Prussia also founded several villages among the extant Volga German colonies.

The early settlers were drawn to the area by Catherine's promise to rid them of the hardships that had befallen war-ravaged Central Europe for most of the preceding century. Among other things, she promised them religious freedom, exemption from military conscription, and 30 years without taxes.

The journey from Western Europe to the Volga was arduous. Of the nine transport lists available for study by researchers, 16.9% of those who started the trek in Oranienbaum, a town just west of St. Petersburg, died in route. Those who did reach the steppes of the lower Volga found that the land was not very hospitable and many were not prepared for an agrarian lifestyle. Pugachev's marauding bands destroyed several colonies in 1773-74 and nomadic tribes took more than 1,200 colonists into captivity.

But the colonies survived, and they flourished, turning the Volga German region into one of the most productive in the Russian Empire. Churches and schools were built in the colonies. Colleges and seminaries were established. Factories and mills were constructed. Over the decades, the number of Volga Germans increased and outgrew the land that had originally been allotted them. In the late 1840s permission was received to establish "Daughter Colonies" to the south and east of the original settlements and more than a hundred of those sprung up.

In 1874, the colonists' exemption from military conscription was revoked. Many, fearful for the lives of their sons, immigrated to the United States, Canada, Argentina, and Brazil seeking the same freedoms and opportunities that had driven their ancestors to immigrate to Russia more than 100 years earlier. By 1920, more than 120,000 Volga Germans of the first and second generation were living in the United States.

Those that remained in Russia suffered tremendously. As expected, most families were required to provide soldiers for the Russo-Turkish War (1877-78) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05). There was a severe famine in 1891-92. The Volga Germans were never completely integrated into Russian society. Even in 1914 as they celebrated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Dobrinka, the first colony,

on 29 June 1764, the descendants of the original settlers still found themselves officially categorized as "colonist" in the Russian class system.

Many of the Volga Germans had become prosperous by Russian standards, and the early communist years were not kind to them. Thousands were labeled as kulaks and sent to labor camps or simply executed. As a result of collectivization and poor



A Volga German family living in Albina during its early days.

Photo contributed by Stacy Hahn.

national political decision-making during the early Soviet Years, a famine occurred in 1921-22. It has been estimated that in some colonies as many as one-third of the Volga Germans perished during this famine.

In an effort to stabilize the area, on 20 February 1924 a Volga German Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was organized that incorporated most of the remaining Volga German communities. But poor central planning resulted in another famine in 1931-32. Nevertheless, in the census of 1939, there were 605,500 ethnic Germans living in the Volga German Republic. When Hitler invaded Russia in 1941, Stalin proclaimed the Volga Germans to be enemies of the state. In a decree issued 28 August 1941, they were stripped of their citizenship and the Republic was officially abolished on 7 September 1941. Within two weeks, the cities and towns along the lower Volga were emptied of their German inhabitants who had been loaded into cattle cars with whatever they could carry and shipped to Siberia and Kazakhstan. Their homes were then occupied by Ukrainians and other Russian citizens who were fleeing the advancing Nazi Army. A culture that had taken 177 years to develop was gone in a matter of days; the Volga German colonies were no more.

Although the Volga German colonies no longer exist as such, it has been estimated that there are more than 70,000 Volga German descendants in Brazil, another 1.5 million in Argentina, and more than 6 million in the United States and Canada. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, those who had been deported to Asiatic Russia in 1941 and their descendants have been allowed to emigrate. Most (over 4 million) have gone to Germany, but many have also gone to Canada.

Oregon's Volga Germans

The first Volga Germans to immigrate to Portland numbered 17 families. They arrived from the dry, grasshopper-infested plains of Rush and Barton Counties in Kansas in 1881. Most came originally from the Volga colonies of Schönfeld and Schöntal with one each from Neu-Yagodnaya, Brunental and Rosenfeld. They took advantage of reduced fares being offered by the Union Pacific Rail-

road and came by train to San Francisco. There they boarded steamers of Henry Villard's Oregon Steamship Company for the final leg to Portland. These hearty pioneers were followed in 1882 by a group made up of 21 families that had originally settled in Hitchcock County, Nebraska. They came originally from the colonies of Frank, Hussenbach, Kolb, Messer and Walter.

Many of these early settlers, having found the forested area around Portland unsuitable for the farming which they had intended to pursue, moved on to the Palouse Country of west-central Washington in 1883. Those who remained settled in the small town of Albina, just across the Willamette River from Portland. Between 1888 and 1890, a considerable number of Volga Germans from the colonies of Balzer and Frank moved to Albina, followed from 1890 to 1895 by an even larger number from the colony of Norka.

Albina was incorporated into Portland in 1891 and as more Volga German immigrants continued to arrive and settle there, their neighborhood became known as "Little Russia" or "Rooshian Town." This community was generally bounded by N.E. Alberta on the north, N.E. 15th on the east, N.E. Russell on the south, and N.E. Mississippi on the west. Union Avenue (now named Martin Luther King Blvd.) was the commercial heart of the Volga German community.

As land was cleared around Portland, some of these families moved south to Canby. The first of the Volga Germans who arrived in Portland were of the Protestant faith. They were joined in 1892 by a group of Catholic Volga Germans who came from the colonies of Semenovka and Köhler.

Their numbers grew, and by 1920 there were more than 500 Volga German households in one precinct of the Albina Neighborhood of northeast Portland. In all of Oregon in 1920, there were approximately 3,750 Volga Germans of the Protestant faith and 1,000 who professed the Catholic faith.

Today one finds descendants of Portland's Volga German community living in all corners of the State, in fact, all across the country. Some have even moved back into the old "Rooshian Town" neighborhood. "Notable" Volga Ger-



Original Ebenezer Congregational Church.

Photo from www.volgagermans.net/portland

mans in Portland include the Steinfeld family, as in Steinfeld Pickles, whose ancestors come from the Volga German colony of Holstein, Doug Schmick, as in McCormick & Schmick's, whose ancestors come from the colony of Yagodnaya Polyana (which means Berry Meadow in Russian), and Steve Schreiber, CFO of the Port of Portland, whose ancestors come from the

colony of Norka.

Volga German Congregations in Portland

- St. John Lutheran Church
- St. Paul Lutheran Church (1889-)
N.E. 12th & Clinton (1896-1951)
3880 SE Brooklyn St. (1951-)
- Trinity Lutheran Church (1890)
N.E. Williams & Graham (1890-1920)
N.E. Rodney & Ivy (1920-1959)
5520 N.E. Killingsworth (1959-)
- Mennonite Brethren Church (1891-1938)
3524 N.E. 6th Ave.
- Ebenezer German Congregational Church (1892-1992)
N.E. 7th & Stanton
- First German Baptist Church (1896)
N.E. Stanton & Rodney (1896-1911)
became Trinity Baptist Church
S.W. 14th & Mill St. (1911-1954)
2700 S.E. 67th Ave. (1954-)
- Second German Baptist Church (1898)
N.E. Rodney & Morris (1898-1953)
became Immanuel Baptist Church (1937)
N.E. 83rd & Prescott (1953-)
- Free Evangelical Brethren Church (1900-1967)
3605 N.E. Mallory (1900-1927)
N.E. Mason & Garfield (1927-1967)
became German Congregational Evangelical
Brethren Church, merged into
Rivercrest Community Church
- St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church (1904-1973)
- Immanuel Lutheran Church (1908)
S.E. 15th & Lambert
- German Methodist Church (1909-1940)
N.E. Stanton & Rodney
- Second German Congregational Church (1913)
N.E. 8th & Skidmore
became Evangelical Congregational Church
became Central Evangelical Church
- Zion Congregational Church (1914-1967)

N.E. 9th & Fremont
 became Zion Brethren United Church of Christ
 merged into Rivercrest Community Church
 Rivercrest Community Church (1967)
 3201 N.E. 148th Ave.

Linguistic Challenges to Volga German Research

Using Russian source documents about the Volga Germans presents many linguistic and historical challenges. In addition to the often poor condition of the documents themselves (fading, bleed through, missing pages, etc.), most of them are handwritten with all the complications related to the deciphering of a scribe's scrawl.

Translation into English also involves not only direct translation but transliteration, particularly of proper names and surnames. The Russian language uses characters of the Cyrillic alphabet while English and German use characters of the Latin alphabet. The contemporary Russian alphabet has 33 characters while the English has 26 and the German 30. Some characters in one alphabet do not have corresponding letters in another. This creates difficulty when transcribing German names into Russian and vice versa. For example, the Russian alphabet has no character for the German letter h. To accommodate the often-used German h, an eighteenth-century Russian scribe usually, but not always, used the Russian letter Г which literally translates into the German letter g. Thus a literal translation of this transliteration results in German instead of Hermann, Gartman instead of Hartmann, and so on. To further complicate matters, the Russian alphabet of the eighteenth century had four more characters than the contemporary Russian alphabet.

When working with original Russian documents relating to the Germans from Russia, translation and transliteration must also account for variations in orthography caused by the phonetic differences between German and English. For example, the German *j* sounds like the English *y* although both languages have both letters; the German *tsch* sounds like the English *ch* although both languages have all of these letters. One, therefore, finds the same colony referenced as *Potschinnaja* in German and *Pochinnaya* in English.

Another linguistic complication involves the inflection of the Russian language. For example, if speaking in Russian of a place as a *selo* ("village" – neuter gender) or *selenie* ("settlement" – neuter gender), the name of aforementioned example colony would be translated into English as *Pochinnoye*. This is the form used in the gazetteer published by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names. However, if speaking of the place as a *derevnya* ("village" – feminine gender) or *koloniya* ("colony" – feminine gender), the name of this same place would be translated as *Pochinnaya*. Regardless of all these spelling variations, it is still the same village.

General information about researching the Volga Germans of Oregon

The largest local collection of resources for locating information about Volga Germans who settled in Oregon, their descendants and their ancestors is located at the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University, 2811 NE Holman Street, Portland, Oregon (<http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu>). While the Center collects materials representing the broadest definition of Volga German history and culture, it does have the largest collection of information about those in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Established in 2004, the CVGS now has a new home in the new Concordia Library which just opened in August 2009.

Researching the Volga Germans of Portland

Resources available for researching the lives of the Volga Germans in Portland are much the same as those for any other Portland resident (local, state and national civil records, city directories, etc.). There are, however, a few that are unique.

While most of the congregations founded by the early settlers have been disbanded or no longer contain many descendants of those settlers, the records of ministerial acts for several of these congregations have been transcribed (many from German into English) and published by the Oregon Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. In all, eight volumes have been published:

- Ebenezer Congregational Church (1892-1908)
- Ebenezer Congregational Church (1909-1984)
- Free Evangelical Brethren Church (1900-1922)
- Evangelical Congregational Brethren Church (1922-1967)
- Second German Congregational Church (1913-1969)
- Evangelical Congregational and Central Evangelical Church (1969-2002)
- Zion Congregational Church (1914-1967)
- Rivercrest Community Church (1967-1968)

For those congregations that remain extant, one can contact the congregation directly. The records of the Mennonite Brethren Church are held in the Archives of the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies (CMBS) in Fresno, California.

The Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University in Portland houses the collections of the late Marie Trupp Krieger, noted historian of the Volga Germans of the Pacific Northwest. Included is a collection of thousands of obituaries of the early Volga German settlers in Oregon and Washington as well as those of their descendants.

Tracing Ancestors Among the Volga Germans in Russia

Maps

There are several published maps that identify the location of each of the Volga German colonies as well as settlement areas of their descendants in the United States, Canada, and South America and their ancestor's villages of origin in present-day Germany. The most prevalent are those published by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR), 631 "D" Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502-1199 (telephone: 402.474.3363; order online: <https://store.ahsgr.org/c-12-maps.aspx>).

- Map #4 – The German Colonies on the Volga (cartographer: A. Mergenthaler)
- Map #6 – German Settlements on the Volga (cartographer: K. Stumpp)
- Map #7 – Hesse to the Volga Identifying the Locations from which the Volga Germans Immigrated (cartographer: K. Stumpp)
- Map #8 – Map of the German Russian Settlements in South America (cartographer: K. Stumpp)
- Map #10 – Map of German Russian Settlements in Canada (cartographer: K. Stumpp)
- Map #11 – Map of German Daughter Colonies NE of Samara (cartographer: K. Stumpp)
- Map #14 – Map of German Russian Settlements in the United States and Mexico (cartographer: K. Stumpp)
- Map #27 – Color Map of the Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic of the Volga Germans (cartographers: G. Schäfer & R. Fink)
- Map #30 – Linguistic Map of the Volga German Mother Colonies (cartographer: G. Dinges)
- Map #62 – Earliest Volga German Map (1767-color) (cartographer: French)

The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection of the University Libraries at North Dakota State University has also published an excellent laminated, color map of the Volga German colonies at the time of the Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic of the Volga Germans (Map #3). GRHC, NDSU Dept. #2080, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050 (telephone: 701.231.8416; order online <http://lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/order/maps/maps9.html>).

Family Descendancy Charts

Dr. Igor Plevé and his colleagues of Saratov, Russia, have researched the histories of hundreds of Volga German families using civil and ecclesiastical records available in a number of area archives. These charts outline the descendants of an immigrant family from the time they arrived in Russia (1764-1772). Available records make it possible for some of these charts to follow the family's descendants well

into the twentieth century, but most stop in the early 1860s. A fairly complete listing of these family charts is available at http://www.ahsgr.org/surname_charts.htm. Those for many of the Portland immigrant families are available for research purposes at the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University in Portland.

Census Records

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, researchers have had access to a plethora of documents concerning the Volga German colonists. Since the times of Peter the Great (1672-1725), periodic population censuses were taken in Russia. Peter the Great commissioned the first census in 1702. Following this first census, there were a series of revisions:

- 1st Revision - ~1719
- 2nd Revision - ~1743
- 3rd Revision - ~1767
- 4th Revision - ~1775
- 5th Revision - ~1798
- 6th Revision - ~1811
- 7th Revision - ~1816
- 8th Revision - ~1834
- 9th Revision - ~1850
- 10th Revision - ~1857

Unlike an American census whose constitutional purpose is to help determine apportionment for the U.S. House of Representatives, the intent of the Imperial Russian census was to keep track of the population, most importantly the male population who needed to be available for military service. Therefore, rather than a "snapshot in time," each Russian census was literally an update of the previous one, accounting for each male listed thereon. While the Volga Germans were exempted from such military conscription from 1764 to 1874, they were nevertheless included in these censuses.

A complete list of those censuses that have been translated into English and from whom they may be obtained is recorded at: <http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/genealogy/Census-Lists.cfm>. The 1798 Census is the most complete listing of all the Volga German colonists. It was compiled and edited by Brent Alan Mai and published in two volumes by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia in 1999 (ISBN 0-914222-32-5).

In 1897, the Russians conducted the first "all Russia" census — not like the revisions, but a fresh complete census. This census was destroyed during the early Soviet years, but there are pieces of it detailing the Volga German colonies that have survived that are available at the archives in Engels and Saratov.

Ecclesiastical Records

Ecclesiastical records, also known as metrical records,

are available for most of the Volga German colonies, but determining where and how to get them can be a challenge. Within days after the Volga Germans were deported in September 1941, Soviet officials came through the former colonies, located and boxed the civil and ecclesiastical records, loaded them onto trains, and shipped them over the Ural Mountains for safe keeping during the war. Following the war, these documents were returned to the Volga area, but were scattered among four major archives, with what seems to be little logic in their distribution. Those four major archives are located in Saratov, Engels, Volgograd and Samara.

In 2003, all of the documents held by the Samara Archives were microfilmed by the LDS, and can be located through the Family History Center catalog (http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp). The place names assigned and document types identified are very ambiguous. For more information about what has been identified in these films as well as the other Volga German regional archives, contact the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University in Portland.

[State Archive of Saratov Oblast]
Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Saratovskoi oblasti (GASO)
Address: 410710, Saratov Oblast, Saratov, ul.
Kutiakova, 15
Telephone: (845-2) 24-32-39
<http://saratov.rusarchives.ru/gaso.html>

[Branch of the State Archive of Saratov Oblast
in Engels]
Filial Gosudarstvennogo arkhiva Saratovskoi oblasti v
g. Engel'se (Filial Gaso v g. Engel'se)
Address: 413100, Engel's, pl. Lenina, 13
Telephone: (845-11) 6-23-71
<http://engelsarchive.ru/>

[State Archive of Volgograd Oblast]
Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Volgogradskoi oblasti
(GAVO)
Address: 400131, Volgograd Oblast, Volgograd, ul.
Kommunisticheskaia, 30
Telephone: (844-2) 30-99-06
<http://volga.rusarchives.ru/>

[State Archive of Samara Oblast]
Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Samarskoi oblasti (GASO)
Address: 443099, Samara Oblast, Samara, ul.
Molodogvardeiskaia, 35
Telephone: (846) 333-76-72
<http://www.chiefarh.samaracity.ru/gaso.htm>

Identifying the Origins of Volga Germans in Germany

Most colonists immigrating to Russia arrived by ship

at the port of Oranienbaum, near St. Petersburg, where their arrival was recorded by a man named Johann Kuhlberg. Among other pieces of information about each colonist, Herr Kuhlberg recorded from where each family had come. His records, often called the Kuhlberg lists, are being compiled by a researcher in Germany. Their publication has been anticipated for many years. A few of these lists, namely those colonists arriving from Lübeck aboard the ship "Anna Katharina" in May, June and August 1766, were published by Igor Pleve as part of his dissertation entitled *The German Colonies on the Volga: The Second Half of the Eighteenth Century* which was translated and published by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia in 2001 (ISBN 0-914222-37-6).

Another set of documents was made when the colonists arrived in Saratov. Not all of these documents have been located, but those for nine groups have been translated by Brent Alan Mai and published under the title *Transport of the Volga Germans from Oranienbaum to the Colonies on the Volga, 1766-1767* by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia in 1998. It lists 7,501 immigrants, 16.9 percent (1,264) of whom died enroute. Little information about each of them is given aside from a name, age and religious affiliation.

The third revision (census) of 1767 was taken so close to the establishment of the Volga German colonies that it is often called an "Original Settlers List." This is not technically correct, but it is a very important document for genealogists because, in addition to recording the name and relationship of each member of a household, it also recorded from where the colonist had come since they were not listed on a previous census. However, the question that seems to have been asked is, "From where did you come?" rather than, "Where were you born?" Consequently, the place names provided do not lead a researcher directly to an immigrant's place of birth. The 1767 Census has been compiled by Igor Pleve and published under the title *Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet: 1764-1767* in four volumes:

Vol. 1 (1999) – Anton-Franzosen (ISBN|
3-98066003-3-5)

Vol. 2 (2001) – Galka-Kutter (ISBN 3-9806003-5-1)

Vol. 3 (2005) – Laub-Preuss (ISBN 3-936943-00-1)

Vol. 4 (2008) – Reinhardt-Warenburg (ISBN 978-3-936943-01-6)

German Migration to the Russian Volga, 1764-1767: Origins and Destinations by Brent Alan Mai and Dona Reeves-Marquardt, published in 2003 by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (ISBN 0-913222-40-6), is a compilation of translated documents from German metrical sources that record colonists on their way to Russia in 1,365 entries. Using the available Russian census documents, these individuals were then located in the colo-

nies along the Volga. Those cross-references are noted in 1,255 footnotes. This publication is indexed by individual, by origin and by destination.

A number of immigrants to the Volga came indirectly from their German homeland. Gerhard Lang has identified a large number of families who went first in 1761 to Schleswig-Holstein, then a part of Denmark, before proceeding to Russia. His research has been posted (in German) at <http://www.wolgadeutsche.net/lang/WEB-Liste-de.htm>. He identifies both from where each family originated in southern Germany and to which Volga German colony they immigrated.

Individual researchers also have been able to determine the Central European origins of their ancestors. A couple of web sites attempt to serve as “clearing houses” for these discoveries:

“German Origins Project” from the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (http://www.ahsgr.org/german_origins.htm)

“Origins” from the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University (<http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/origins.cfm>)

Further Reading List

To learn more about the history and culture of the Volga Germans, the following books are recommended. Most are available through the online Book Store of the CVGS (<http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/bookstore.cfm>) or in your local library.

Beratz, Gottlieb. *The German Colonies on the Lower Volga: Their Origin and Early Development*. Translated by Adam Giesinger. Lincoln, NE: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1991.

Dietz, Jacob E. *History of the Volga German Colonists*. Lincoln, NE: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 2005.

Haynes, Emma S. *A History of the Volga Relief Society*. Lincoln, NE: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1982 (revised ed.).

Kloberdanz, Timothy and Rosalinda. *Thunder on the Steppe: Volga German Folklife in a Changing Russia*. Lincoln, NE: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1993.

Koch, Fred. *The Volga Germans: In Russia and the Americas, from 1763 to the Present*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1977.

Pleve, Igor R. *The German Colonies on the Volga: The Second Half of the Eighteenth Century*. Translated by Richard Rye. Lincoln, NE: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 2001.

Sallet, Richard. *Russian-German Settlement in the United States*. Fargo, ND: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1974.

Scheuerman, Richard D. and Trafzer, Clifford E. *The Volga Germans: Pioneers of the Northwest*. Moscow, ID: University Press of Idaho, 1980.

Sinner, Peter. *Germans in the Land of the Volga*. Translated by Dona Reeves-Marquardt. Lincoln, NE: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1989.

Sinner, Samuel D. *The Open Wound: The Genocide of German Ethnic Minorities in Russia and the Soviet Union, 1915-1949 and Beyond*. Fargo, ND: Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, North Dakota State University Libraries, 2000.

Volga Germans by the Numbers

- 177 – years the Germans lived along the Volga
- 29 June 1764 – founding of the first colony: Dobrinka
- 29 June 2009 – 245th Anniversary of the founding of the Volga German colonies
- 28 August 1941 – dissolution of the Volga German Republic
- 1762-1796 – reign of Catherine the Great, 1729-1796
- 22 July 1763 – Second Decree inviting the Germans to settle along the Volga
- 30,623 – Central Europeans who settled along the Volga
- 106 – colonies founded (1764-1772)
- 1874 – first Volga Germans immigrate to the United States
- 1881 – first Volga Germans arrive in Portland
- 500 – number of Volga German families living in northeast Portland in 1920
- 600,000 – Volga Germans deported to Siberia in 1941
- 4,000,000 – German-Russians now living in Germany

Editor’s Note: Brent Mai is the University Librarian of Concordia University in Portland, Ore., and the Director for The Center for Volga German Studies.

• • •

We would like to thank Steven Schreibert, webmaster of the Volga Germans in Portland website, for permission to use information from the website (below and on pages 9, 19 and 41. See more at www.volgagermans.net/portland

Volga Wisdom

“Der Russe hat eine warme Seele, der Deutsch hat einen kuehlen Kopf, der Russland Deutsche hat eides, ein warme Seele und einen kuehlen Kopf.”

(Russians have a warm soul, Germans a cool head, and German-Russians have both a warm soul and a cool head.)

Recipes from Volga families

Courtesy of www.volgagermans.net/portland

Roggebrood

Light Rye Bread of the Volga Germans in Portland.

Recipe of Marie Fischer Schneider from the colony of Rosenberg

Ingredients:

- 1 C milk
- 1 pkg. dry yeast
- 2 C lukewarm water
- 2 C rye flour
- 2 T sugar
- 2 T shortening
- 1 t salt
- 5 C (or more) white flour

Scald milk, then cool to lukewarm. In large mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in water. Add warm milk. Stir in rye flour and sugar until smooth. Cover bowl with a towel and set mixture out of draft overnight.

(Faster: cover and let set in a warm spot 1 - 2 hrs.) Mixture will rise and fall over the course of setting and will be somewhat bubbly the next morning.

Add shortening, salt, and flour. Knead to a soft dough, adding more white flour as necessary. Cover, set aside away from draft, and let rise 1 hour or until double in size. Punch down dough, divide in half, and shape into two round loaves. Place in greased cake pans, cover, and let rise again until double.

Bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake an additional 40 to 50 minutes.

Makes a heavy-crust bread. Traditionally sliced thick and served with butter and a little salt on top.

Tends to dry out quickly after cut. Double-wrap for day-to-day storage. Freezes well when double wrapped also.

Krautkoche or Kraut Kuchen

The name Krautkoche (the K's are pronounced like a hard G) for this item seems to be somewhat unique to Portland. In other parts of the United States and Canada they are known as Runzas and Bierocks.

Make your favorite white bread dough. Chop one head of cabbage and one large onion. Heat about 1/9 cup oil in pan and add cabbage onion salt and pepper to taste. Put on lid and steam until tender — do not brown. Drain well. Roll out bread dough and cut into

4-inch squares. Top with a heaping spoon full of cabbage. Bring corners together and pinch well. Dip in melted butter and place seam side down on baking pans. Let rise 1/2 hour. Bake at 400 for about 20-30 minutes. Cool.

— Marcia Staunton, Portland, Ore.

Writing Contest Winner

Collision on Altoona's 'Front Porch'

By Bonnie LaDoe

It was just an old ladle with spots of corrosion blemishing its silver skin and tarnish almost hiding the inscription on its handle. Passed down from my Aunt to my Mom and then on to me, I was told it was from the **Welsh Prince**. "It sank right in front of our house" Mom said. She was just 13 years old at the time living with her parents and older sister in Altoona, Washington. A few photos of the crew are displayed in our family album, including one with my Aunt Lorna all dolled up and looking more than happy to have the stranded sailors there. Another photo shows the badly listing ship. But if our ladle was from the **Welsh Prince**, why was it inscribed **SS Glenspean**?

Sunday, May 28, 1922 had been a warm day¹ in the small fishing village of Altoona near the mouth of the Columbia River. The evening remained clear with little wind and calm water, even though some historical reports call it "a foggy night." Most folks had retired by 10:45 p.m. when the collision happened.² Those awake first heard the frantic whistles and then the crunch as steel met steel. Some could see the faint outline of an ocean going vessel sinking in the channel. Fishermen jumped into their boats and made their way toward the wreck.³ What they found could have repelled the strongest stomach.

When the fishermen arrived on the scene, they found the British Steamer, **Welsh Prince** with a 52-foot gash in her starboard side inflicted by the American Steamship **Iowan**. The collision instantly killed seven crewmen asleep in the forecandle of the **Welsh Prince**, "mangling them almost beyond identification."⁴ Jimmie Burns, a crewman on

the **Welsh Prince**, risked his life saving two injured mates. A mate later said "I've followed the bloomin' sea goin' on 30 years and I've been in lots of crashes in my day," ... but I never been saw anything like it."⁵

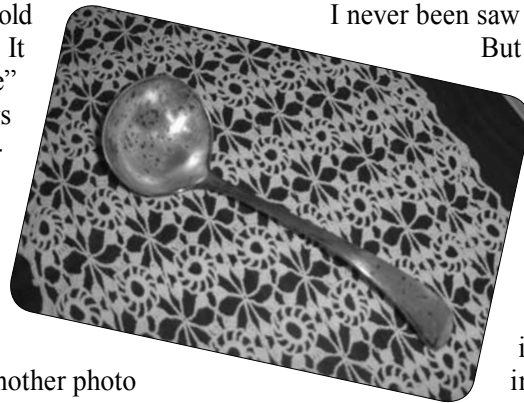
But how could this awful thing happen? How did two ships end up on a collision course? It's a story that is so much more than an old ladle.

The 2322-ton **SS Welsh Prince**, owned by Furness, Withy and Co. and renamed by the Rio Cape Line as part of their Prince Line in 1922, she was originally named the **SS Glenspean** when built in Glasgow, Scotland in 1912.⁶ She arrived in Portland, Oregon on May 6, 1922 from Baltimore⁷ and after loading at the Harvey Peninsula Mills, she departed down river on May 28th heading for the Orient⁸ with Capt. Hugh H. Hill as her Master and Capt. Edward Sullivan as her River Pilot. By that evening, with her load of 3,600 tons of steel⁹ and 2,200,000 board feet of lumber (called Jap squares)¹⁰, the **Welsh Prince** was almost directly in front of Altoona.

The 6547-ton **SS Iowan** built in 1914 in Maryland became the **USS Iowan** when acquired by the Navy in 1917 to carry troops in WWI. Decommissioned and returned to the American Hawaiian Steamship Co. of NY City in 1919,¹¹ she was inbound from New York with her 400 tons

of freight the evening of May 28th.¹² Steaming up the Columbia River toward Portland with her Master, Capt. Louis LaVerge, described as a "short, wiry man of French lineage,"¹³ and River Pilot Capt. A. R. Pearson, she made the sharp turn in the channel in front of Altoona¹⁴ just before 10:45 p.m.

"Well, I remember hearing the bang," said 96-year-old Doris Pearson



Some of the **Welsh Prince** crew in Altoona; Aunt Lorna Upton standing second from the right. (Author's photo)

when asked if she remembered the event. “It woke me up.”¹⁵ Doris, maiden name Bailey, was only 11 years old and living with her parents and siblings in Altoona when it happened. Her dad, Walter Bailey, a local fisherman, heard the danger whistles and leaped from his bed in time to see the collision.

Although the residents of Altoona were aware of the situation just after it happened, the outside world heard only a sketchy report from a radio operator at Fort Stevens. He reported the **Welsh Prince** sunk and the **Iowan** sinking. An S.O.S. sent by the **Iowan** and picked up at North Head prompted a response from the tug **Oneonta** in Astoria.¹⁶

The **Oneonta** arrived to find the **Welsh Prince** on fire and rapidly sinking. The **Iowan**, crippled but not in danger of sinking as first reported, radioed she was lying along side attempting to put out the fire.¹⁷ She stayed until 4 a.m. when an ebb tide forced her to leave the scene.¹⁸ She had made her way to Portland by the morning of May 29th¹⁹ and was later repaired at the Albina Marine Iron Works.²⁰

The three injured firemen rescued from the **Welsh Prince**, James Morgan, 42, of Liverpool, Lawrence Welsh, 25, of Cleveland, and Peter Konrad Holm, 29, from Rotterdam were transported by the **Oneonta** to the Astoria hospital.²¹ All survived. Peter Holm, possibly the most seriously injured, left for New York on July 1st²² where he brought a \$10,000 lawsuit against the **Welsh Prince** owners for injuries sustained in the collision.²³

By the morning of the 29th, the grisly task of removing the bodies of the seven dead crewmen had begun. The coroner of Clatsop County, Oregon, E. B. Hughes, arrived on the river steamer, **Melville**, with a crew of men equipped with acetylene torches. They worked burning through the twisted steel until the evening tide covered the wreckage. Five mangled bodies were recovered from their bunks in the fore-castle that day: John C. Clair, Blaydon-on-Tyne, England, Edward Harry Ward, Bristol, England, Jarvis Blake, Sheilds, England (with his gold Elgin watch still running)²⁴, William Sharkey, 310 ½ Tenth St., Portland, and Knud Fensted, from Denmark. It was not until the next day that the bodies of C. M. Jensen, of Denmark and Joel Buckwalter, 724 Petty St., Portland were removed.²⁵
²⁶

On May 31st, funeral services conducted in Astoria by F. C. Taylor of the Grace Episcopal Church were attended by

the crew, representatives of the steamship line, members of the marine insurance association, and the British consul, John P. Trant.²⁷ All seven are buried in Riverview Cemetery (aka Lewis and Clark Cemetery). Sadly, none of the graves have markers today although their location is known thanks to mapping done by the Clatsop County Genealogical Society who now owns the cemetery.²⁸ However, before that purchase, the owner was in the habit of burning the land to rid it of blackberry vines, and unfortunately, any wooden markers, if placed, would have fallen victim to those fires.²⁹

With their families so far away, the graves of these men are now forgotten. No engraved plaque, no head stones, nothing to remind us of that dreadful scene that took place so long ago. In September 2008 I visited the unmarked sites, perhaps the only person to do so in over 85 years.

Most of the crew who had come to Astoria on the **Melville** were given meals and lodging at the YMCA and attended the funeral of their mates.³⁰ However, 14 men stayed on the **Welsh Prince** to stand guard. At 11:05 p.m. on May 30th, the **Welsh Prince** broke in two with a snap and crash heard for miles.³¹ The men on board blew distress signals heard by J. H. Thompson of Altoona who went out to the ship and brought the crew ashore, with the exception of the carpenter, James Duffy and the boatswain, William McKeown who wished to remain on board.³² Thompson then went back and stood by until 6 a.m. in case he was needed.

“They had a monkey and they brought it into Altoona”, said Doris Pearson when asked about the crew. “I was too bashful to go see it, but my brothers told me. And they had these funny little hats. There was lots of excitement. And they brought in tins of malt. I remember for years we had a can of it. And I went out on it (the wreck) with Harold and Ruby Pullium, (her aunt and uncle) and had my picture taken. They went out many times and took pictures because it was right out in front of Altoona; more in Cottardi.” (Cottardi was a fish receiving station a few feet west of Altoona).

It’s not known how long the crew remained in Altoona,

but it is likely that my family photos of the crew were taken at this time.

Apparently, someone must have let their guard down on the night of June 7th as the dining room and Captain’s cabin was looted and “stripped of all the movable articles”



Altoona, Washington, circa 1930 (Author's photo)

including a stove and port lights.³³ So, is this how my family got the ladle? Perhaps, but I'll never really know.

By now, it was increasingly urgent to all parties involved to know the exact cause of the collision. Local inspectors from the U. S. Steamship inspection service visited the wreck trying



Welsh Prince after the collision. (Author's photo)

to fix blame for the accident. The San Francisco board of Marine Underwriters, representatives of both steamship companies, the Oregon State board of pilot commissioners, the Clatsop County coroner and the British Consul were all investigating to find a cause for the crash. In addition, Major Richard Park of the US Corp of Engineers and a survey crew were at the site to determine whether conditions of the river channel were at fault.³⁴

Furthermore, a Portland policeman on duty on the dock as the **Welsh Prince** left Portland reported a delay in departure because of repairs to a fouled steering gear. He claimed overhearing Capt. Hill say "Let it go, we will take a chance of getting it fixed at Astoria."³⁵ In a later deposition, James Duffy, **Welsh Prince** carpenter in charge of the steering gear, claimed it was in working order before they left Portland.³⁶

Historical accounts³⁷ say the collision was due to heavy fog. But newspaper reports do not mention fog. And Carlton Appelo, author and historian for the area, said in his book *Altoona*, written in 1972, "The evening was clear." In a chat with Carlton on Oct. 11, 2008, he revealed he had come to that conclusion by way of personal interviews with people living in Altoona at the time of the collision. Also testimony by both captains indicated they sighted one another when approximately a mile apart, with no mention of fog. Some newspapers speculated that either swift currents or smoke from forest fires were possible causes, but neither these nor fog appear in any found testimony.

The most important local investigation into the cause of the collision was conducted by the United States steamship inspection service. On June 2nd at the Gasco Building in Portland, steamship inspectors John E. Wynn and Captain E. S. Edwards began their secret inquiry to determine the responsibility of the two river pilots; Captain A. R. Pearson of the **Iowan** and Captain Edward Sullivan of the **Welsh Prince**.³⁸ Testimony was heard from the river pilots and

both ship crews and masters. After hearing all the testimony, the steamship inspectors brought formal charge of misconduct against both river pilots and both were put on trial.

In a time before radio communication, ships meeting on the river communicated

by whistle signals.³⁹ A ship would give either two whistles for a "green to green" passing, meaning each vessel would keep to the left side of the channel, or one whistle for a "red to red" passing with each ship keeping to the right of the channel. Normally, when two ships met, they would take the one-whistle side, like American cars meeting on a two-lane highway.

The trial of the river pilots began in Portland on June 6th. **Welsh Prince** pilot Sullivan, with attorney W. H. Hayden of Seattle as his counsel, gave the first testimony and stated the accident was caused by a confusion of whistle signals. He said he heard the **Iowan** give two blasts for a "green to green" passing and the **Welsh Prince** proceeded with that intention. But he then heard the **Iowan** give a one-blast signal for a "red to red" passing. As it was too late for the **Welsh Prince** to maneuver a red-to-red passage, it immediately gave a danger signal (a series of short blasts), stopped the engines and ordered them hard astern. Pilot Sullivan said the ships were about 3,500 feet apart when he heard the first two whistles with the **Welsh Prince** making about 11 miles per hour.⁴⁰

Erskine Wood appeared as counsel for pilot A. R. Pearson and the owners of the **Iowan**. Pearson testified he gave only one whistle, but did not receive an answer. He said the ships were about a mile and a quarter or mile and a half apart, and with no answer to the first signal, he proceeded about a half mile and repeated it. He said the **Welsh Prince** then swung and he could see her other light, so he sounded several short blasts and ordered full speed astern with the helm hard to port. Captain LaVerge testified he saw Captain Pearson give one blast on the whistle and about two minutes later, a second blast.⁴¹

With all that was happening, it is no surprise that both pilots admitted they failed to give three whistles indicating their engines were going astern.⁴²

By June 7th, the testimony of the pilots, captains and

crew was concluded. However, because an affidavit was allowed into evidence from the first officer of the **Sinaloa**, a steamer some distance behind the **Iowan**, who said he heard two whistle blasts, Pilot Pearson of the **Iowan**, asked the court to allow testimony from Altoona fishermen. A decision was made to continue the hearing on June 13th with each side allowed three more witnesses from the vicinity of the wreck.



10 of the Welsh Prince crew at Altoona. (The young boy may be Cresswell Ramsey, cabin boy who had served on the ship since at least 1920 when he was 14 yrs old, per Gleanspan manifests from Ancestry.com). (Author's photo)

Since attorneys represented both vessels, one can understand why deputy US district attorney John Veatch was now assigned to serve on behalf of the U. S. steamship inspectors.⁴³

On the morning of June 13th, the trial of the river pilots continued. "I remember he went to Portland for the trial", said Doris Pearson of her dad, Walter Bailey. "He was gone a few days. I know he talked about it, but being a kid, I didn't pay much attention."

In fact, Walter Bailey was the first to testify that day. He said he was home in bed, but upon hearing the danger whistles, looked out in time to see the collision. He stated he heard two whistles from one vessel answered by two whistles from the other vessel before hearing the danger signals. A New York court also later deposed Walter, his wife Pearl and son Clyde. Walter continued to testify that he heard two whistles from both vessels. In an in-depth interrogation as to why he was so adamant about what he heard, he stated he could tell by direction and tone of the whistles as to which came from which ship. And all three stated that they could see the ships clearly from the window of their home even at 10:45 p.m. – another reason to believe it was a clear evening.⁴⁴

However, fishermen John Socolich, A. Nagerlin and John Dumich all testified to hearing only one blast from the **Iowan** answered by two from the **Welsh Prince**.⁴⁵ J. G. Bjorge, manager of Columbia Northern Fishing and Packing declared he not only heard one blast from the **Iowan** answered by two from the **Welsh Prince**, but there followed another single blast answered by two before the danger blasts.⁴⁶ Captain John J. Anderson, river pilot on the **Sinaloa**, some distance astern of the **Iowan**, told of hearing two whistles given and answered the same way, corroborating the affidavit filed by his mate.⁴⁷

On June 19th, the steamship inspectors rendered their decision. River Pilot, Capt. A. R. Pearson of the **Iowan** was penalized with the suspension of his federal license for three years. No charges were sustained against River Pilot Capt. Edward Sullivan of the **Welsh Prince**.⁴⁸

Not only had Pearson lost his federal license,

but on August 9th the Oregon state board of pilot commissioners also suspended his state license for four months. However, Pearson had already lodged an appeal with Capt. John Bulger, the supervising inspector of the United States steamship inspection service at San Francisco, to reopen the case to allow him to cross-examine Capt. Sullivan.⁴⁹ On September 6th, Bulger reversed the decision made by the Portland office and reinstated Pearson's license. He then placed the blame on Capt. Sullivan and ordered him to turn over his license.⁵⁰ This was the first instance in the history of the Portland steamship inspection service that such action had been taken. ⁵¹ Both pilots had lengthy experience on the river with no prior blemishes on their records. On December 18th, Capt. Sullivan's license was also reinstated.⁵²

The reason Pearson was first found at fault and later cleared and Sullivan then found guilty is not clear. One can only imagine what it was like for these experienced river pilots to live under the cloud of misconduct for six months until the matter was resolved.

However, the reinstatement of the pilots' licenses was by no means the end of the investigation. On June 14th, the owners of the **Welsh Prince**, the Rio Cape Line, Ltd., had filed libel proceedings in New York against the **Iowan** for \$500,000, which prompted the American Hawaiian Steamship Co., owners of the **Iowan**, to petition for limitation of liability. Then on July 6th, the owners of the **Welsh Prince** also filed for a limitation of liability.⁵³ In November 1922, pilots Pearson and Sullivan were again giving testimony in Portland to be sent to New York for use in these pending litigations.⁵⁴ But it was February 8, 1926 before a settlement was made. In addition, the settlement agreement decreed that the collision and sinking were "...incurred by the mutual fault of those in charge of said steamships..."⁵⁵



Artifacts from the Welsh Prince in storage at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, Astoria, Ore.
 Author's photo, Astoria, Ore., 16 Sept. 2008

Back in June 1922 when crewman Peter Konrad Holm filed suit against the **Welsh Prince** owners, a federal law mandated that service of a libel action must be made “on the vessel.” Therefore, chief deputy United States Marshal for Oregon, Everett T. Stretcher went to Astoria, engaged a launch, traveled to the sunken **Welsh Prince** and attached a copy of the libel proceedings to the vessel’s upper works.⁵⁶ Then in July, Peter’s suit was restrained by a Portland judge pending the outcome of the proceedings in New York.

As the above suits were proceeding, so were talks about the salvage of the **Welsh Prince** and her cargo. On June 9th in Astoria, the owners and insurers met to decide on plans to remove the hulk and cargo valued at approximately \$300,000.⁵⁷ At that meeting they decided to ask for bids on both the cargo and vessel.⁵⁸ The U. S. Corp of Engineers required a salvager to post a \$100,000 bond to insure the removal of the hull and cargo from the river channel. By June 28th, two bids had been received, one from Wood, Baxter & Co.⁵⁹ and another from W. S. Fortiner. However, since the owners had not released the cargo to the underwriters, the bids were withdrawn.⁶⁰ On July 1st, it was reported that all parties were well aware of the U. S. Government’s possible intervention to blow up the wreck and cargo to clear the channel if action wasn’t forthcoming within a few days.

By July 6th, Major Richard M. Park of the Corp of Engineers said unless some move was made toward removal of the vessel within 10 days, steps would be taken by the government to take possession in 30 days. The laws allowing Major Park to issue that warning called for the owner to commence on the removal immediately after the sinking and ...”prosecute the work diligently, failure to do so being considered as an abandonment of the vessel and subjects it to removal by the government.”⁶¹

With no action from the owners or underwriters by July 8th, Major Park requested permission from Washington to take possession of the wreck and call for bids to re-

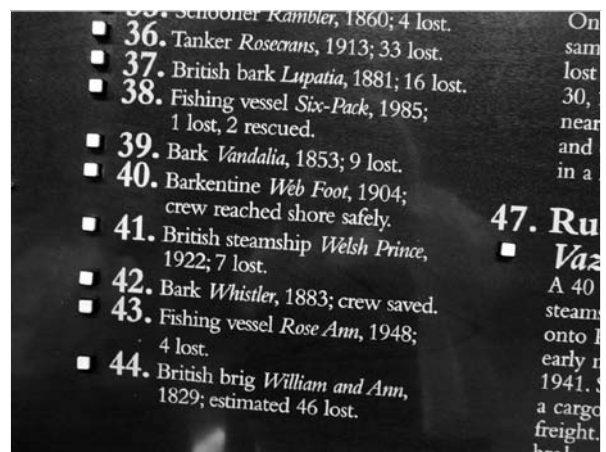
move it.⁶² (Apparently at this point, blowing up the wreck was no longer an option).

On July 23rd, the U. S. Government took possession of the wreck and called for new bids to be opened on August 24th, with work to start in 20 days and completed in 360 days. The bidders were given two proposals for payment and the Government specified that all parts of the vessel and cargo be removed for a clearance 35 feet below low water.⁶³ The watchmen placed on the wreck by the owners were discharged after receiving the official notice from Major Park.⁶⁴

Inquiries were made at Major Park’s office as to how the Corp of Engineers could declare the wreck an obstruction to navigation when ships passed around it with ease. The answer: the wreck was in the range marked as part of the channel, so it was said to be “officially” an obstruction even though it was not hindering navigation.⁶⁵

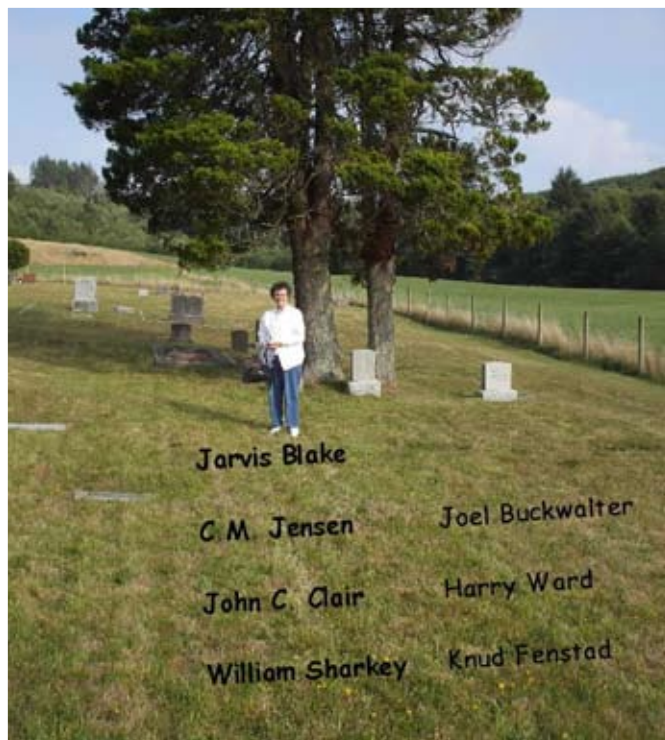
The government received only one bid by August 24th. M. Barde & Sons asked for \$50,000 and all the salvage and offered to meet all specifications which included posting the \$100,000 bond guaranteeing removal.⁶⁶ The government accepted the bid and a contract was drawn up dated Sept. 1, 1922. The lumber on the top deck had already been salvaged, but the government figured there were still 1,600,000 feet of lumber and 4,000 tons of steel remaining in the hull having an estimated cost of \$297,000 when it was loaded.⁶⁷

Barde began at once to plan for the salvage work. They leased the sternwheeler “Olympian” to tow the barges Kudapasen and Dallas from North Portland to the site, one with a sheerleg gear for lifting salvaged parts.⁶⁸ In addition, two old steamer hulls were caulked and brought to the scene to be used for salvaged materials. And a warehouse was leased at the foot of Sheridan Street in Portland to receive the salvaged parts.⁶⁹ The plan was to raise the aft section of the wreck by constructing a bulkhead near the break in the hull, pump it free of water to float it, and tow it away.⁷⁰ L.R. Bixby, of the Corp. of Engineers stayed



Shipwreck board.

Author's photo, Astoria, Ore., 16 Sept 2008



The author standing near the grave of Jarvis Blake with the other six gravesites stretched out before her. (Jarvis was also listed on manifests for the Glenspean in 1920 and 1921, per Ancestry.com) Sept. 16, 2008. (Author's photo)

with the salvage crew and reported the progress to Major Park.⁷¹

“That was the scene from our porch,” said Doris Pearson looking at the photo of the salvage operation. “The salvage crew came and worked on it, oh, for the longest time.”

By October, the salvage operation was reportedly going well with 40 tons of coal unloaded and recovery of other parts that could be reached.⁷² They had 4 to 6 divers at work underwater to build the bulkhead and predicted the after section would be out of the channel by Thanksgiving.⁷³

But as late as December 1922, they were still working to close leaks in the bulkhead.⁷⁴ And it was not until March 1923 that an attempt was made to raise the stern using several powerful pumps and cables stretched under it. However, the combined weight of the sand and steel proved too much for the cables and they snapped. So, the work stopped and the entire crew was temporarily laid off.⁷⁵

It was August 1923 before another attempt was made. Much of the cargo had been removed, the bulkhead made more watertight, and other leaks stopped. A test had shown good results, but on the morning of the August 13th, the pumps broke and the whole job had to be done over again.⁷⁶ By August 31st, additional pumps were being installed,⁷⁷ and on September 4th, with the installation complete, Barde

predicted, “...the hull will be floated within two hours.”⁷⁸ And if all went well, Barde would meet their contract agreement with the government within the set time limit.

Unfortunately, the next mention of the **Welsh Prince** is not until January 1925 when a *Morning Oregonian* article states that dredging is continuing at the site of the **Welsh Prince** “...that was removed last year.”⁷⁹ If the wreckage was still there in 1924, it appears the agreement between M. Barde and Sons and the government was breached and the salvage operation never completed. In the end, the remaining hull and cargo was dynamited to clear the channel giving Altoona residents one last grand show.⁸⁰

The fate of the wreckage and the lives impacted by the collision that Sunday evening in 1922 has now faded into history. But it undoubtedly altered many lives: The river pilots, captains, crew, steamship inspectors, witnesses, underwriters, owners, salvagers, and the families of those lost. All felt the impact of that collision. And tragically, it was the last thing felt by seven young crewmen asleep in the forecabin.

The huge shipwreck board at the entrance to the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon lists the event only as “#41. *British steamship Welsh Prince, 1922; 7 lost.*”

As disasters go, the collision of the *Welsh Prince* and the *Iowan* does not rank very high. The few artifacts at the Museum are packed away, the cemetery records have little information, few books give it more than a paragraph, and the event is now largely forgotten.

But, as I stood beside the graves of the lost **Welsh Prince** crew that September day, I knew I would always remember: Jarvis Blake, C. M. Jensen, John C. Clair, William Sharkey, Joel Buckwalter, Harry Ward and Knud Fenstad were no longer just names found in the newspapers at the time of the incident. They were real people who met a terrible death far away from their homes. Even though no markers remain and no family lived near enough to visit their graves, they deserve to be honored. And now, thanks to an old ladle, a bit of family lore and a few old family photos, they are.

Endnotes

1 Disposition of Pearl Bailey, pg 21, witnesses in behalf of the Rio Cape Line, Ltd. Taken October 10, 1923, before Louise M. Brown, Notary Public in Astoria, Oregon, for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, from NARA Federal Records Center, New York City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States

2 *Morning Oregonian*, 29 May 1922, pg 1, digital image, Genealogy Bank.com, by subscription, accessed 20 March 2008. (All subsequent 1922 *Morning Oregonian* references also accessed in this manner on or about the same date)

3 Carlton E. Appelo, *Altoona, Wahkiakum County, Washington*, pg. 73 (Carlton E. Appelo, privately printed 1972).

4 Carlton E. Appelo, *Altoona, Wahkiakum County, Washington*, pg. 74 (Carlton E. Appelo, privately printed 1972).

- 5 <http://www.red-duster.co.uk/PRINCE18.htm>, 5 March 2008
- 6 Morning Oregonian, 7 May 1922
- 7 Morning Oregonian, 26 May 1922
- 8 Morning Oregonian, 1 June 1922
- 9 Morning Oregonian, 1 June 1922
- 10 <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-i/id3002.htm>, accessed 25 March 2008
- 11 Olympia Daily Recorder, 29 May 1922, digital image, Genealogy Bank.com, by subscription: accessed 20 March 2008.
- 12 Morning Oregonian 30 May 1922
- 13 Carlton E. Appelo, *Altoona, Wahkiakum County, Washington*, pg. 73 (Carlton E. Appelo, privately printed 1972)
- 14 Author's interview with Doris Pearson, Longview, WA, 17 May 2008: digital recording.
- 15 Morning Oregonian 29 May 1922
- 16 "Seven in forecastle killed in collision" (pdf). The New York Times: p. 21. 30 May 1922. <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=9D04EFD71339E133A25753C3A9639C946395D6CF>, Retrieved on 2008-08-25, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_lowan
- 17 Morning Oregonian, 30 May 1922
- 18 Olympia Daily Recorder, 29 May 1922
- 19 Morning Oregonian, 25 Aug 1922
- 20 Morning Oregonian, 30 May 1922
- 21 Oregon Passenger and Crew Lists, 1888-1957, digital images, Ancestry.com, accessed 16 Mar 2008
- 22 Proof of claim of Peter Konrad Holm, Claimant, in the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York, from the National Archives and Records Administration's Federal Records Center, New York City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.
- 23 Morning Oregonian, 30 May 1922 and The Los Angeles Times, 19 Jun 1922, pg. 11TM
- 24 Morning Oregonian, 30 May 1922, pg. 1
- 25 The spelling of the names changes in the newspapers, but the spelling in this story is as listed on the Oregon Death Index and on cemetery records.
- 26 Astoria Evening Budget, 31 May 1922
- 27 Penner, Liisa, Lewis & Clark Cemetery, Aka Riverview, Astoria, OR: Clatsop County Genealogical Society, 1987, block 4, single unmarked graves.
- 28 Conversation between author and Liisa Penner, Clatsop County Genealogical Society, Astoria, Oregon, 16 Sept 2008
- 29 Morning Oregonian, 30 May 1922
- 30 Astoria Evening Budget, 31 May 1922
- 31 Astoria Evening Budget, 5 June 1922 (McKeown was reported as Keown, but the ship's manifest shows McKeown)
- 32 Morning Oregonian 8 June 1922, pg 14
- 33 Morning Oregonian 31 May 1922
- 34 Morning Oregonian 31 May 1922
- 35 Deposition of James Duffy, taken on behalf of Rio Cape Line, Ltd, November 1, 1922 at Portland, Oregon, filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, from NARA Federal Records Center, New York City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States
- 36 From the Columbia River Maritime Museum 16 Sept 2008: Argonaut Resources: - Shipwreck Database Report/Washington State, page 1009; The H. W. McCurdy Marine History of the Pacific Northwest, Maritime Events of 1921-22; and Jim Gibbs, Pacific Graveyard, 1964
- 37 Morning Oregonian, 2 June 1922, pg 14
- 38 <http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:pb4pJzE4KX0J:www.steamboats.org/forum/river-talk-cruises/340-riverboat-whistle-signals>.
- 39 Astoria Evening Budget, 6 June 1922, microfilm, OHS
- 40 Morning Oregonian, 7 June 1922, pg 4
- 41 Morning Oregonian, 7 June 1922, pg 4
- 42 Morning Oregonian, 8 June 1922, pg 15
- 43 Dispositions of Walter Bailey, Pearl Bailey and Clyde Bailey, witnesses in behalf of the Rio Cape Line, Ltd. Taken October 10, 1923, before Louise M. Brown, Notary Public in Astoria, Oregon, for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, from NARA Federal Records Center, New York City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States
- 44 Morning Oregonian, 14 June 1922, pg 14
- 45 Astoria Evening Budget, 13 June 1922, microfilm, OHS
- 46 Morning Oregonian, 20 June 1922, pg 16
- 47 Morning Oregonian, 20 June 1922, pg 16
- 48 Morning Oregonian, 9 Aug. 1922
- 49 Morning Oregonian, 6 September, 1922, pg 14
- 50 Morning Oregonian, 7 September 1922
- 51 Morning Oregonian, 17 December 1922
- 52 Dockets, dated June 14 and July 6, 1922, US District Court records, case #84-26, from NARA Federal Records Center, New York City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States
- 53 Morning Oregonian, 5 November 1922, pg 22
- 54 Final Decree, dated 8 Feb 1926, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, case numbers 84-26 and 84-107 (combined), from NARA Federal Records Center, New York City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States
- 55 Morning Oregonian, 20 June 1922
- 56 Morning Oregonian, 10 June 1922
- 57 Morning Oregonian, 11 June 1922, pg 21
- 58 Morning Oregonian, 22 June 1922
- 59 Morning Oregonian, 28 June 1922
- 60 Morning Oregonian, 6 July 1922, pg 16
- 61 Morning Oregonian, 9 July 1922, pg 17
- 62 Morning Oregonian, 23 July 1922, pg. 17
- 63 Morning Oregonian, "Pacific Coast Shipping Notes", 23 July 1922
- 64 Morning Oregonian, 7 July 1922, pg. 6
- 65 Morning Oregonian, 25 Aug 1922, pg. 13
- 66 Morning Oregonian, 30 Aug 1922, pg. 21
- 67 Morning Oregonian, 10 Sept. 1922
- 68 Morning Oregonian, 4 Oct. 1922
- 69 Morning Oregonian, 8 Sept. 1922, pg. 15
- 70 Morning Oregonian, 30 Sept 1922
- 71 Morning Oregonian, 8 Oct. 1922
- 72 Morning Oregonian, 27 Oct 1922
- 73 Morning Oregonian, 30 Dec 1922
- 74 Morning Oregonian, 6 March 1923, pg. 14, microfilm, Multnomah County Central Library
- 75 The Morning Astorian, 14 Aug 1923, microfilm OHS, accessed 19 Feb 2009
- 76 The Morning Astorian, 31 Aug 1923, pg. 8, " "
- 77 The Morning Astorian, 4 Sept. 1923, pg 8, " "
- 78 Morning Oregonian, 27 Jan. 1925, pg 14, microfilm, Multnomah County Central Library
- 79 Morning Oregonian, 27 Jan. 1925, pg 14, microfilm, Multnomah County Central Library
- 80 Carlton E. Appelo, *Altoona, Wahkiakum County, Washington*, pg. 74 (Carlton E. Appelo, privately printed 1972), and Argonaut Resources: Shipwreck Database Report/Washington State, 1988,1989,1990,1991, Kent M Barnard, pg 1009

For the Record

Compiled Sources and the Internet

By Connie Lenzen, CG

The Bulletin focus this year is on early Oregon settlers. While we may not have early Oregon settlers in our ancestry, there is something we have in common. We want to link our ancestors to their families, to learn interesting things about them, and to ultimately write their stories. In order to do that, we need to use a variety of sources, and they should be reliable. Reliable sources are typically defined as sources that are named as chapter headings in Part 2, "Records and Their Use" in Val Greenwood's *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. These are compiled sources and newspapers, vital records, census returns, probate records, government land, and local land records (every type). There are other sources that genealogists use, but these are the big six.

The four articles in this series will be about sources. This first article is about compiled sources. Greenwood divides those into seven categories: family histories and genealogies, local histories, compiled lists, biographical works, genealogical and historical periodicals, compendium genealogies, and special manuscript collections. It's an appropriate topic since compiled sources are typically found in libraries, both real and virtual. The GFO library is the largest genealogical library in the state, and it provides Internet access to its patrons.

The Internet has become the genealogists' friend. We search online for our ancestors, we look at subscription websites, we communicate with relatives. We would be lost if we didn't have the Internet. Individuals, local genealogical societies, libraries, and large commercial organizations are digitizing compiled sources and placing them on the Internet. Some are accessed by subscription only, but there are numerous free sites. For all of the frugal genealogists (this author included), the sites mentioned in this article will be the free ones. These are GoogleBooks, Google, the BYU Archives, The Making of America website, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, and library websites.

Prosper Gillett, one of my husband's ancestors, is used to illustrate what can or cannot be found on these sites. Prosper was born in 1817 in New York, and he died in 1902 in Hannibal, Missouri.

GoogleBooks (<http://books.google.com/books>) is an

easy-to-use online book source. There are two types of books in the collection: books in the public domain and ones that are still in copyright. The ones in public domain are fully viewable. Some are even downloadable. The books that are still in copyright have only a limited view of the contents. Links are provided to sites where you can purchase the books and to WorldCat, an index to library catalogs. (More about WorldCat later.) To search GoogleBooks, either use the URL above, or select the "Books" option on the main Google page. (You find "Books" under "More.") Place quote marks around the name of your ancestor and click "search." If your ancestor's name is a common one like "John Miller," you will need to add more search terms to narrow down the result list.

GoogleBooks example: There are five results for "Prosper Gillett." Three are for the a patent application, one is for a genealogy in the *Nebraska Ancestry* periodical, and one is for something in *Cook's Crier*, another periodical. The patent application is listed in the 1865 United States Congressional Serial Set as a report from the Commissioner of Patents and in the 1866 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents. The books are in the public domain and are fully viewable. The entry for Prosper says:

No. 41,696.—Prosper Gillett, Hannibal, Mo.—*Railroad Track Raiser*.—February 23, 1864.—This invention consists in a combination of levers with a toothed rack provided with a suitable toe to be applied to the track, the said levers being so arranged in relation to each other and to the toothed rack that by the action of one lever the toothed rack can be released and dropped to its original position.

Claim.—The lever G and pawl F, in combination with the plates i and pin a and with the rack c. and lever E, all constructed and operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as shown and described.

All published records are derivative sources; they are not the original source, and any number of errors can slip in during compilation. Bottom line: always look for the original. The United States Patent and Trademark Office has digital copies of the original patent applications on their website, <http://www.uspto.gov>, and a copy of the patent drawing was found and downloaded.

Google, the website, provides a way to find compiled

records that people may have posted to the Internet.

Google Example: There were 31 results to a Google search for “Prosper Gillett.” The Commissioner of the Patent publication was listed as well as three others that held promise.

The first item was the *Nebraska Ancestry* article. This is not the same item that the GoogleBooks found. Rather, it is a transcription of the *Ancestry* periodical article, and it was placed on a GenWeb page. Mrs. Louisa O. Haywood, daughter of Prosper Gillett married Henry W. Elliott on 14 April 1870. While there is always the possibility of error with this twice-removed document, the original Lincoln County, Nebraska, marriage records can be located to verify the facts and to see if there is additional information. Since the family Bible gives Louisa’s name as Lois, it is important to locate the original document.

The second item was a Paden genealogy website. It was attractive and included a number of sources, but no sources were given for Prosper Gillett’s family or ancestry. With an absence of sources, there is no way to tell if the information is accurate. However, the author’s contact information was given, and he may have material that he didn’t include in the Internet version.

The final hit was a pdf copy of the Genealogical Council of Oregon’s Fall 2005 newsletter. Gerry Lenzen, who was then president of the organization, told about writing fully documented reports for the Herrick and Sellick family associations. Prosper Gillett, as the husband of Delia Ann Sellick, was included in the compilations.

Brigham Young University (BYU) Family History Archives, at BYU’s Harold B. Lee Library, (<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>), is a collection of thousands of published family history materials. There are several ways to search the Family History Archive, but the “Advanced Search” option allows exact phrase searches.

BYU Family History Archive example: The Advanced Search option with “Prosper Gillett” as an “exact phrase” was used. The one result was for the 2008 edition of the *Herrick Genealogical Register*. Sources were cited for the information in the book, but the citations were abbreviated. This may have been done to save space, but it makes it difficult for the researcher who wants to fact-check.

The Making of America project at the University of Michigan, (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moa-grp/>) is a digital library of more than 12,000 nineteenth-century historical books. It is easily searched for names and places. Unfortunately there were no results for the “Prosper Gillett” search.

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>) is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. The project goal is to digitize newspapers and place them on the Library of Congress website. Almost a million newspaper pages from 1880 to 1922 from twelve states have been scanned and placed online. Eventually all U.S. states and territories will be digitized and placed online. Searches are easy. You select a state or a specific newspaper and enter search terms. If an obituary was published, you can find it. The Hannibal newspaper hasn’t been scanned yet, and I’ll go back to look for Prosper.

Library websites. Public libraries are creating digital collections that include published sources. Some are available only to library patrons while others are available to the public.

Multnomah County Library patrons have access to a number of books on the library’s website. Go to the Multnomah County Library website, <http://www.multcolib.org>, and select “Databases.” Notice that there are a number of online newspapers. None of them are for Missouri in the 1800s, so that search was not conducted. The *Columbia Gazetteer of the World* is a dictionary of places, and it has a short but informative section about Hannibal that puts Prosper’s railroad invention into historical context; Hannibal was a railroad junction. HeritageQuestOnline has a large collection of books; unfortunately Prosper Gillett is not in any of them.

Hannibal Free Public Library example: The Hannibal library has digitized a number of Hannibal city directories. There were 13 hits for “Gillett.” The 1871-72 directory listed three people with that surname: Gillett Mrs. M., 206 North Fifth; Gillett, J. S., book binder at Courier office, and **Gillett P., railroader, Grace**. When Prosper Gillett applied for his 1864 patent, he was living in Hannibal. There’s no 1864 or 1865 online Hannibal directory, but there is one for 1866. The surname Gillett was not indexed. The pages containing surnames beginning with “G” was made, and a P. Gillott was found. He was a news and stationery dealer in the Post Office at the corner of 3rd and Broadway.

Library Catalogs. Sometimes we find a reference to a particular book that is not online or in our local libraries. Most public libraries participate in the Inter Library Loan program (ILL). There is usually a modest sum attached to loan requests, but the fee is less expensive than a plane ticket. WorldCat is a collection of catalogs for tens of thousands of libraries that belong to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). You can go to <http://www.WorldCat.org> to

search, or you can access WorldCat through the Multnomah County Library website. If you use the Multnomah County Library site, you can make an online ILL request. There is a registration process that is needed, but it only takes a few minutes to complete.

The *Cook's Crier* periodical that was noted in the GoogleBooks search still looks promising, and it would be nice to see it. A search for the publication was made on WorldCat, but there are no Oregon OCLC libraries with the periodical.

NGS Library Book Loan Collection is in the St. Louis County Library in Missouri. All NGS books and non-reserve books in the library's collection are available through ILL channels. The quickest way to get to the catalog is to type http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/library_book_loan_collection in your browser. A search was made for *Cook's Crier* in the library catalog. The library has the periodical, but it's a reference item and does not circulate.

The GFO Library has a large periodical collection. The library catalog is on the website, <http://www.gfo.org>, and the "Search our site..." box searches the catalog. Copies of the *Cook's Crier* periodical are in the library! The catalog doesn't tell if the needed issue is on the shelf, but it's always fun to visit the GFO Library.

We don't know everything about Prosper Gillett, but we

know more than we did. He took out a patent on a railroad tool, he had a stationery shop in the Hannibal Post Office, and he lived on Grace Street in Hannibal. In addition, Gerry is contacting the person who put the Paden genealogy on the website. He may be a cousin, and he may have additional information.

These Internet searches in compiled sources took a day. It took that long because source citations had to be created. I know that if they aren't done on the spot, it will take five times as long to go back and do them later. Online sources are difficult to cite because we often have to search websites for all of the elements. As an example, two citations are given here.

Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the Year Ending 1864; Arts and Manufactures. Volume 1 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1866); digital image, Google Books (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 28 June 2009), citing p. 303.

"USPTO Patent Full-Text and Image Database," United States Patent and Trademark Office, database (<http://www.uspto.gov>: accessed 28 June 2009), "P. Gillett, Lifting Jack, patent file no. 41,696 (1864), original file location not cited.

Comments and suggestions should be sent to the Column Editor, Connie Lenzen: ConnieLenzen@comcast.net

Spitznamen in Volga

By Bill Burbach, Milwaukie, Ore.

"Spitznamen" is the word for nicknames, a part of our Volga German tradition. The choice of given names for males were limited to about a dozen. Coupled with a limited number of family names in a village, there were duplications of complete names. To identify some male persons nicknames were used.

A common name was John, or in German, Johannes. This name was shortened to Hannes. If he was a large person he would be referred to as Grosse Hannes. A small person would be Hannesly. A fat person would be Dicke Hannes and a thin one, Dünne Hannes. If he had a limp he would be called Shep Hannes. There were other nicknames that were based on physical appearances which today would be considered cruel.

Nicknames were derived from various sources such as trade, lineage, or traits. In the village of Norka my grandfather, Henry Burbach, had a machine shop where he built and repaired farm equipment. He had the habit of wiping his greasy fingers on the chest of his shop apron. He therefore acquired the nickname of Schmier Bosome; the translation being "oily chest."

Krieger families were prevalent in Norka. There was Garten Krieger who had a very large garden on the edge of the village. Poste Krieger was a postman. Becker Krieger was a baker. Lecki Krieger had married into the Lecki family.

Jost Heinrich Mueller (Miller) at age 14 had immigrated from Germany in 1767. A descendant of his would be referred to as a Jost Heinrich Mueller.

This use of nicknames was extended to America. In the German-Russian community of Portland for example there was John Krieger who had a sheet metal shop and was called Tin Krieger. John Miller had previously lived in Colorado and was referred to as Ft. Collins Miller. There was a Mr. Walker who talked very fast and he was Typewriter Walker.

To learn more about spitznamen, go to www.volgagermans.net/portland/spitznamen.html.

Oregon Snapshots

The Cornish in Oregon

By Alene Reaugh

Cornwall is a county of England, located on the southwestern peninsula of Great Britain. It is bordered to the north by the Atlantic Ocean, to the south by the English Channel, and to the east by the county of Devon, over the River Tamar. It has a population of 531,600, covering an area of 1,376 sq mi.

Cornwall is considered one of the six "Celtic nations." Technically it is a County of England, yet they retain a distinct identity with their own history, language, flag and culture. The Cornish were miners and the following says it best:

The old saying is "A mine is a hole in the ground with a Cornishman at the bottom," and it has proved true. Cornwall perfected the art of hard rock mining, developed and perfected the mighty steam engines that pumped the mines, lifted and lowered millions of tons of material and men; and powered the industrial wealth of the country of England.¹

Cornwall's economy was greatly affected by the decline of the mining and fishing industries around the middle of the 19th century. Cornish miners immigrated to all corners of the world including North, Central and South America, Australia and Africa in search of work.

Several communities in the United States were established as Cornish towns and some still exist today. The most well-known are:

- 1) Mineral Point, Wisc., where "...In the 1830s, news of the lead mining rush reached Cornwall, England, and the Cornish miners and their families started arriving in Mineral Point. These immigrant Cornish miners brought advanced hard rock and deep mining skills..."²
- 2) "Michigan has a long mining history. Copper, iron, gold, silver, gypsum, slate, salt, coal and limestone have been mined there."³ My great-grandfather brought the family to Michigan from Cornwall during the copper boom in the late 19th century.
- 3) Grass Valley, Calif., is probably the best known Cornish Town; it is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. "It was estimated that in the 1890s, over 60 percent of the population of Grass Valley, California was Cornish."⁴

There does not appear to be a Cornish Town in Oregon, but Oregon had mines spread throughout the state, so, there must have been Cornish in Oregon.

There are stories of Cornish men who came from Cali-

fornia and Nevada in search of work in the mines, including but not limited to: Cinderella Mine; Black Butte Mine, Linn County; Cornucopia Mine & Golconda Mine in Baker County; and Rich Gulch at Jacksonville. Gold was mined in Oregon from 1851 until 1953, when the last of the gold dredges ceased operation in Sumpter.⁵

So, who were the Cornish in Oregon? I didn't locate any miners in my search but I did find some well known Cornishmen who had an impact on Oregon's growth.

There was William Simon U'Ren born January 10, 1859, the son of immigrants from Cornwall, who was considered the father of Oregon's Initiative process. At the turn of the 20th century, he was instrumental in getting initiative, recall and referendum included in Oregon's government.⁶

Colonel James B. Eddy was born at St. Ives, Cornwall in 1855. In 1881 he came to Oregon. "He was Deputy Sheriff of Umatilla County four years, and editor of the Pendleton Tribune three years. In 1892 he was appointed special agent for the allotment of lands on the Umatilla Reservation."⁷ "He was Reading Clerk of the State Senate in 1893, and at that session was elected Railroad Commissioner..."⁸ He was president of the Republican club at Pendleton for four years and was a member of the Governor's staff, with rank of colonel.

E. J. Floyd was born at Redruth, Cornwall, March 26, 1851, the son of a copper miner. "In 1880 he came to Portland and at once engaged in the plumbing business. By years of hard work he built up a good business and became one of the most expert in his line. In July, 1894, he was appointed Inspector of Plumbing and Drainage for the City of Portland..."⁹

The Pacific Northwest Cornish Society was established to promote the preservation of public and private Cornish heritage and genealogy. The Oregon membership is currently at 15, with another 5 in the Vancouver area. Three of the Oregon Cornish descendants are members of the GFO and the Writers Group: myself, Bonnie LaDoe and Mickey Sieracki. If you are of Cornish descent with ties to the Pacific Northwest, please consider joining us. See our web site at www.nwcornishsociety.com.

(Endnotes)

- 1 <http://www.geniusloci.co.uk/cousin-jacks.htm>
- 2 <http://www.mineralpoint.com/history/index.html>
- 3 <http://www.mg.mtu.edu/hist.htm>
- 4 <http://www.downtowngrassvalley.com/pages/history.html>
- 5 <http://www.westernmininghistory.com/towns/oregon>
- 6 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Simon_U'Ren
- 7 <http://genforum.genealogy.com/eddy/messages/1787.html>
- 8 <http://genforum.genealogy.com/eddy/messages/1787.html>
- 9 <http://boards.ancestry.com/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=1649&p=surnames.floyd>

Comments and suggestions should be sent to the Column Editor, Alene Reaugh: softwalk2@yahoo.com.

Written in Stone

The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth

Two Civil War veterans who ended their days in Oregon caught the assassin

By Randy Fletcher

Abraham Lincoln's Oregon connection

2009 marks the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and celebrations have been held across the country during the year.

Oregon has a special connection with Lincoln, who campaigned for Zackary Taylor in 1848. As a result, in 1849, Lincoln was offered the governorship of the Oregon Territory but Mary Todd Lincoln had no interest in winding up in such a distant and uncivilized outpost. Had Lincoln accepted the position in Oregon, it is unlikely that he would have become president and history would be greatly changed.

Trooper John Millington was standing guard duty in Washington, D.C. before dawn on April 15, 1865 when he was notified that President Lincoln had been shot at Ford's Theater the night before. The bugler sounded Boots and Saddles and Millington's regiment rode to the outskirts of the city to form a blockade in an attempt to prevent the assassin from fleeing the capitol. It was a gray Saturday and a steady rainfall chilled the men of the 16th New York Cavalry as they joined thousands of other soldiers in an attempt to lock down the city. The mission was impossible, for the murderer and his accomplice had already made their way across the Potomac River and slipped into Maryland. Later in the day, word was passed to the soldiers that the President had died and that well-known actor John Wilkes Booth had committed the dastardly deed.

The news of the President's death shocked, saddened, and angered the soldiers. The boys in blue of the Union army revered their President. They called him Father Abraham and it was the support of the military that clinched Lincoln's reelection in 1864. For the first time in American history, troops in the field were allowed to vote, and they responded overwhelmingly, seventy percent or more, in favor of Abraham Lincoln.

A week before the assassination, Millington and his comrades in the 16th, including his friend Emory Parady, had celebrated joyously the news from Appomattox Court House that Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant. The war was won and Millington and Parady had survived. Peace was at hand and soon they would be

going home to their native New York.

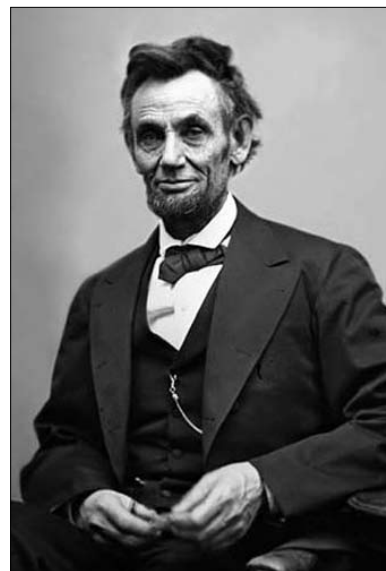
Troopers recalled for funeral duty

After three days on patrol in an attempt to keep the assassination conspirators from leaving the city, the 16th New York Cavalry was recalled to Washington D.C. where they were to take part in the President's funeral. Lincoln's body had been taken to the White House where his funeral was held

on Wednesday, April 19th. After the service, twelve army first sergeants carried the coffin and placed it in a horse drawn carriage for the final trip down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol. General Grant and President Andrew Johnson led the funeral procession followed by a regiment of U.S. colored troops leading thousands of Union soldiers that included Parady, Millington and the rest of the 16th New York. Behind the dignitaries and the regiments were forty thousand African Americans, the freeborn and the newly-free, walking and holding each other's hands as they mourned.

Hundreds of thousands of spectators lined the street and filled every window, balcony, and rooftop to witness the procession and pay their final respects. Witnesses to the event remarked on the size of the crowd and marveled at the absolute silence of the occasion. A silence broken only by the muffled drums of the military escort. After lying in state at the Capitol, the President's body was loaded on a special train for his final trip to Springfield, Illinois. Millions of people gathered along the tracks and at train stops along the way to mourn their leader. Their solemn duty of the day complete, the 16th Cavalry returned to their barracks on 'J' Street.

Emory Parady and John Millington had known each other for seven months, ever since Parady had joined the



President Abraham Lincoln.

16th New York in September of 1864 and been assigned to Company H where Millington served. Millington, at age twenty-one was a seasoned veteran. Stocky and with dark curly hair, Millington had been eighteen when the Civil War began and he enlisted in the 93rd New York Infantry. The farm boy from Chester, New York fought in several major engagements with the 93rd before contracting typhoid and receiving a disability discharge following the Battle of Fredericksburg. After spending a year at home recovering from the disease, Millington re-enlisted.

Parady, age twenty, had grown up on his parent's farm near Beekmantown, New York, about ninety miles from the Millington place. Emory's older brother, Joe Parady, was already serving with the 16th New York when Emory enlisted. The Parady brothers and Millington had fought together against Confederate forces in numerous engagements and skirmishes throughout northern Virginia.

'Boots and Saddles' alerts the cavalry

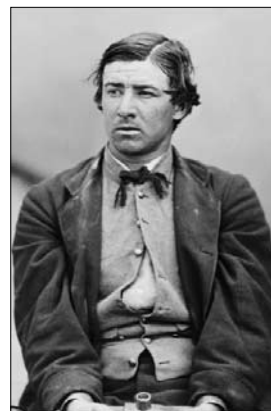
Five days after the funeral, on April 24, 1865, Millington and Parady were chowing down in the barracks when they heard the first notes of "Boots and Saddles," the bugle call that ordered cavalry to mount up. Normal military protocol was ignored for the sake of speed. Lieutenant Edward Doherty, the officer in charge of the detail, took command of the first 25 men to hit the saddle. Doherty added a sergeant from his own troop, and led his men to the corner of Fourteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, across from the Willard Hotel. There, two men in civilian clothes, officers from the National Detective Police, precursor of the U.S. Secret Service, met the troopers. The detectives led the cavalry to the Washington Navy Yard where the men and their horses were loaded onboard a Union steamship, which headed down the Potomac River.

On board the ship, Lt. Edward Doherty showed his men a set of three photographs. The troopers did not recognize two of the men, but the third portrait was clearly that of the famous actor, J. Wilkes Booth. The soldier's hearts leapt with excitement; they were going after the assassins! The largest manhunt in history was underway. Doherty's detachment was told that Booth had crossed the Potomac near Port Tobacco and they were instructed to seize any man resembling the pictures.

At about ten o'clock that night, the troopers landed on shore and began a hard target search of every residence, warehouse, farmhouse, hen house, outhouse, and doghouse in the area. Talking only in whispers, the cavalry traveled light: Armed with only pistols and sabers, Parady reported they were ordered to secure the sabers to their saddles to reduce their clanking noise. In addition, the men carried no food or provisions, confiscating what they needed from local farms and houses issuing Federal payment vouchers as compensation for the requisitioned supplies. The search party, one of hundreds of patrols scouring the countryside,

got a break early in the afternoon of the second day.

While searching near Point Conway, Virginia they questioned fisherman William Rollins. Asked if he had seen any strangers crossing the river in the last several days, Rollins reported that two men in a wagon, one of them with a broken leg, had crossed the day before. Three Confederate soldiers on horseback accompanied the men in the wagon.



David Herold

Luther Baker, one of the detectives accompanying the cavalry, showed Rollins photographs of the three fugitives they sought. The first man pictured was John Surrat and Rollins reported that he had not seen him. Rollins, however, recognized the man in the second picture as being in the wagon with the man with the broken leg. He was David Herold who was seen outside Ford's theater the night of the assassination. The third picture shown by the detective was identified as the man with the broken leg, John Wilkes Booth. They were on the right trail! Rollins had even more information to share. He reported that he recognized one of the Confederate soldiers as a local man named Willie Jett who had served with Mosby's Rangers. Rollins further volunteered that Jett was courting a local girl named Izora Goldman whose father ran the Star Hotel near Bowling Green.

Rollins was conscripted as a guide and the Union cavalry mounted up and headed out to find Willie Jett. The men of the 16th New York arrived in Bowling Green at midnight and quickly surrounded the hotel. They suspected Booth and his accomplices could be sleeping inside. Lt. Doherty and the second detective on the killer's trail, Everton Conger, pounded on the hotel door and when the door was opened by Mrs. Goldman, they rushed past her with pistols in hand and ready for action. The Union soldiers hurried upstairs to find a man in his underclothes starting to rise from his bed. "Are you Jett?" they shouted and when answered in the affirmative they seized the man and roughly hustled him down the stairs, dragging along the Goldman's son Jesse. Under interrogation Jett stated that he did not know who the two men in the wagon were except that they were Confederate soldiers who had gotten into some trouble in Maryland and needed a place to lay low. He stated he did not know where they went. After what Millington described as some "forcible persuasion" Jett pleaded to speak to Conger alone.

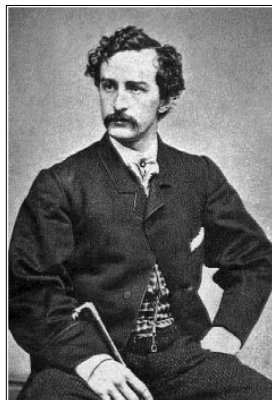
Alone with the detective, Jett agreed to lead the search party to Booth and Herold's hideout on the condition that he did so under the appearance of force. Jett was concerned for his safety if he was seen as a Yankee collaborator and he

wanted no witnesses to his capitulation. Jett was permitted to dress as his horse was retrieved from the stable. The Confederate ranger then led the Federal men back up the road they had just traveled, to the Garrett farm. Earlier that night, in their dash to the Star Hotel, the cavalry had thundered by Garrett's farm without stopping to search. They did not even notice that David Herold was standing plainly visible within the gates of the farm watching the horsemen tear down the road. When Jett indicated they were nearing the Garrett's place, Doherty slowed his column. Jett and Detective Baker opened the Garrett gate and the 16th New York Cavalry charged at full gallop down the road to the farmhouse.

The assassins are cornered

The barking of the dogs awakened Booth and Herold who were asleep in the Garrett's tobacco barn and they soon heard the unmistakable sound of cavalry on fast approach. Farmer Richard Garrett, asleep in his house also awoke and was on his front porch when the cavalry arrived in the blackness of night. Detectives Conger and Baker leapt from their saddles on to the porch and confronted the old man while half of the detachment, including Trooper Parady, was sent to search nearby barns. The detectives demanded to know the whereabouts of the two men who had visited that evening. Garrett replied that he knew nothing about any men being there, at which point Lt. Doherty ordered one of his men to fetch him a picket rope saying "We'll hang the old man and see if it will refresh his memory." Garrett had two sons, both recently returned from the war, who were hiding at the farm. At the mention of hanging, son John Garrett came out of the woods and said he would tell the detectives what they wanted to know. Before being given a chance to speak further, young Garrett was seized by Lt. Doherty who pointed his army revolver at Garrett's head. Conger demanded "where are they?" and the reply was "the two men are in the barn." In that same instant, Parady heard voices coming from inside the tobacco barn and he summoned his officer.

At the approach of the cavalry Booth and Herold attempted to flee only to discover that the Garrett boys had locked them in the barn. The fugitives tried in vain to kick out the wood slats in order to escape but the barn was solidly built. Soon the barn was completely surrounded by Union cavalry and Detective Baker ordered the men to come out. "Never! Come in and get me!" replied the defiant Booth who then offered to come out and fight if the troopers would back away 50 paces. The soldiers were ordered to gather and lay straw along the base of the barn and to prepare to



John Wilkes Booth

fire the building.

While Booth continued to yell challenges at his besiegers, his accomplice David Herold was begging Booth to give up. Booth called out to the detectives "The young man who is with me will surrender." Doherty opened the barn door slightly to allow Herold to come out at which point the cavalry officer slammed the door and tackled Herold. Booth's companion was tied to a tree and Millington was posted to guard him. Millington asked Herold if the man in the barn was Booth and Herold confirmed that it was. Herold then told Millington that he had no knowledge that Booth planned to kill the President. Their plan was to kidnap Lincoln and hold him hostage until Union troops withdrew from the South. Herold cried to Millington that he had fallen under Booth's spell and that after the assassination, Booth threatened to kill him if he did not help him escape. David Herold was laying out to Millington the basis of his defense at his upcoming conspiracy trial. Millington, the hardened war veteran, was unmoved by Herold's pleas as, in the end, was the military tribunal that condemned Herold.

As Herold confessed to Millington, the order was given to set fire to the barn. As the orange flames illuminated the interior of the barn, Parady and the other men could see Booth scurrying about, trying to stomp out the flames, his broken leg rendering his attempt futile. The detectives planned to take Booth alive by jumping him as he fled the fire but that chance never came. The situation at the barn was practically a mob scene, many of the soldiers bent on revenge. From his position guarding Herold, Millington could hear the soldiers yelling for Booth to show himself. Sergeant Boston Corbett, seeing through vents in the barn that Booth was armed with a Spencer rifle, fired one shot from his Colt revolver, the ball striking Booth in the neck and dropping him to the ground. The troopers rushed inside the flaming structure and dragged the unconscious Booth outside, laying him on Garrett's front porch.

Parady and the men surrounded Booth as he regained consciousness. Paralyzed from the bullet, Booth asked to see his hands and when the soldiers raised his arms for him to see, Booth muttered "useless." Booth lived about two hours after being shot, the grizzly death scene lit by lanterns and the fire from the barn. His last words were "Tell Mother I died for my country." Booth's body was wrapped in an army blanket and placed in a wagon. As the sun rose in Virginia, the soldiers, detectives, their prisoners, and the wagon with Booth's body drove to the river where the steamer that had brought them waited for their return. On the journey, in return for his collaboration, Willie Jett was allowed to "escape." On board ship, Herold was placed in a cabin and again Millington was detailed to guard him while another soldier was stationed outside the door. Upon his guard relief, Millington, frigid because he had no overcoat, made his way to the ship's boiler room to sleep where it was warm.

Crowds greet the captors

When the steamer reached the Washington Navy Yard, the docks were jammed with people. When Booth had been shot, Detective Conger had gone ahead of the men and sent word to the War Department of the capture. The news had gotten out and thousands had turned out to see the body or at least congratulate the captors. Because of the curious throngs, Lt. Doherty decided not to try and take Booth's corpse ashore. He ordered Millington and others to move the body and place it on the deck of an ironclad Navy warship. With their duty complete, Doherty, Millington, Parady and their comrades returned to their barracks for a hot meal and a sound sleep. When they awoke the next day, the papers had long articles about the killing of Booth and the capture of Herold. An outstanding account of the search for Booth is James Swanson's book *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*.

The end of the Civil War brought return to civilian life for the men of the 16th New York Cavalry. Emory Parady received his discharge in May of 1865 and headed for home. John Millington had one final duty: Twenty-members of the 16th New York were present at the July 7, 1865 hanging of David Herold and three co-conspirators of the Lincoln assassination.

Soldiers share reward money

Millington mustered out of the cavalry when the regiment was disbanded in September. Like his friend Emory Parady, Millington returned to upstate New York and his parent's farm. He married shortly after returning home and began a family.

About a year after the death of Booth and the execution of Herold, the U.S. government paid out \$100,000 in reward money to those persons who played a role in the capture of the assassination conspirators. Each of the twenty-six enlisted men of the 16th New York received \$1,658.58, the equivalent of ten years of army pay.

Millington used \$800 of his reward to buy a farm near Chester, New York but like many Civil War veterans, he soon headed west and by 1875 he and wife Phoebe were farming near Summit Lake, Minnesota. Emory Parady moved west with his parents and settled near Berlin, Michigan. He married a girl from Ohio and by 1870 Emory and his bride Frances had invested his reward money and owned a farm valued at \$1,700. The Paradys grew tired of simple farming life and by 1880 they had relocated to Nashville Village in Michigan where Emory worked as a cobbler operating his own shoe business. Parady prospered in Nashville Village, serving as postmaster from 1881-1886, a time when post office boxes rented for forty cents per year. He was also elected to a term as Village President. Emory and Frances Parady made Michigan their home for thirty years

before moving to Oregon. The couple raised two sons, Silas and Albert; and three daughters, Elizabeth, Nellie, and Blanche.

John Millington also gave up farming to pursue a trade. He became a carpenter and moved his family from Minnesota to Sioux City, Iowa. John and Phoebe raised five sons: John Jr., Joseph, James, George, and Benjamin. Phoebe died after the turn of the century and John took his carpentry skills to Portland where his sons George and Joseph lived.

Parady brought his business to Portland sometime between 1901 and 1908. Portland census records list Parady as a shoemaker and show daughters Elizabeth and Nellie working in a photography gallery and living with their father and mother. In Oregon, Parady was reunited with his old saddle-mate Millington. Both of the Civil War veterans, now gray and in their sixties, were members of Portland's Benjamin F. Butler Post 67 of the Grand Army of the Republic. Following a three-year battle with cancer, John W. Millington died on November 11, 1914. He was 71. Emory Parady died at age 80 at his Portland home on March 14, 1924.

Final resting places

President Abraham Lincoln is buried in Springfield, Illinois beneath a magnificent one hundred seventeen-foot tall tomb. Lincoln is immortalized around the world. In this country, his face is one of the four carved into Mt. Rushmore and his giant seated form looks out upon our national capitol from the Lincoln Memorial. Portland's tribute is a downtown statue that is 10 feet tall.

Booth rots in an unmarked grave in his family's plot in Baltimore.

John Millington is buried at the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in southwest Portland. His grave is marked by a simple veteran's headstone.

Emory Parady fittingly rests in Lincoln Memorial Park in east Portland. His distinctive granite monument reads "Member Co. H, 16th NY Cavalry. One of the 26 enlisted men who captured John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln."

Randy Fletcher is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War who writes periodic articles for the Oregon Magazine, an online publication. Randy can be reached at cwtrooper@comcast.net.

The photos of Booth and Herold are from the Library of Congress website: <http://memory.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html>.

Comments and suggestions should be sent to the Column Editor, Carol Ralston Surrency: icsurr@aol.com.

Relics

‘Iron in the blood and breath in the lungs’ — hand-painted porcelain heirlooms

By Harvey Steele

Family heirlooms from our great-grandmother’s time are rare, but somewhere in your house, possibly in the china cabinet or attic, you may have a porcelain plate hand-painted by one of your great-grandmothers, great-great-grandmothers or someone in their generation. It may have survived because it was “too good to use” or because it was the work of an aunt or cousin well-known to the family in their time, but forgotten today. It may have been painted during the Golden Age of china painting, between 1890 and 1920.



George Jeffery: 7.5-inch plate of Mt. Hood, showing height at 12,000 feet.

Porcelain painting in the United States had a modest beginning after the Civil War. The turning point for its rise in popularity was the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. On display in the Women’s Pavilion were several porcelain vases and plates painted by amateurs from southern Ohio. The craft was already well-known from anonymous work in centers like Dresden in Germany and Limoges in France, but the skill of the Ohio painters electrified thousands of fair visitors and they took the technology and knowledge back to their home states, including Oregon and Washington. By the 1890’s there were an estimated 25,000 china painters in the U.S., most of them women. ¹

A German-American artist commented, “It is largely due to that early craze for China Painting that art has been brought into the life of the people of this country, for the fine arts were and are largely confined to a special class, who

occupy a niche of their own and speak a special language. To take to pictorial art is almost like going into a convent and renouncing the outer world, while the decorative arts are by the people and for the people and flourish best as part of the life of the people. They are iron in the blood and breath in the lungs. They create an unconscious atmosphere in which we live and move and have our being.”²

Probably, most women of that time who painted porcelain regarded it as a hobby. Hand-painted works could always be given as gifts or donated to the church bazaar.

Women supplemented the family income by selling some of their better pieces.

But there were others, like Mrs. Paist, who took it as seriously as a religion. Many of them joined or created china painting societies, worked at art associations like the Arts and Crafts Society of Oregon, and frequently submitted their work to competitions and exhibitions. ³

In Oregon, amateur china painters had opportunities at the annual State Fair in Salem, which began in 1861, to recognize and award public art, and the annual Portland Mechanics Fair, held from 1877 to 1890. In addition, several teachers opened studios in Portland, including George Jeffery, who had been a professional porcelain painter at the Royal Crown Derby factory in England. His studio, opened in 1890, featured the Royal Worcester/Derby style, popular



Mary Steele: 12.5 x 9-inch platter with wild roses.

in England, which stressed decorative simplified flower images rather than the precise realism of the Dresden style. Except for his own work and that of his student, Rose Bishop, there are few surviving vestiges of the English style.⁴

Painting on porcelain requires artistic skill. Instead of a flat canvas, the artist paints her subject, often flowers, on a slightly curved or uneven surface. Creating reasonably realistic chrysanthemums or roses on the side of a cup or vase or gravy bowl, or even the cavetto of a plate, requires precision and patience. Dorothy Kamm, in her encyclopedic work on the painter's craft in America, selected examples of the Dresden style to illustrate her discussion of the Aesthetic Movement, an interior decoration philosophy which flourished from 1875 to 1890. Early versions of that style were already well-known from classic Meissen porcelain, produced at a factory only 12 miles from Dresden.⁵

Kamm's work identifies eight other styles that occur on American china painting, but, except for the ubiquitous Dresden style, only one other, the Arts and Craft Movement, which employed linear geometric flower paintings and sometimes stencils to decorate porcelain, had relative popularity in the region. Lawrence Kreisman and Glenn Mason have discussed that movement in the region and it is beyond the scope of this article to comment further on their research or on the other styles of painting.⁶

Based on the author's study of several hundred works in two large Portland collections, that of the Oregon Historical Society and that of Richard Pugh, a private collector, the majority of surviving signed, hand-painted porcelain works were floral depictions influenced by the techniques of the Dresden style.⁷

This conclusion was not surprising considering that the roots of the Dresden influence on American china painting reside in the historic American beginnings of the craft in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1873, Karl Langenbeck, an immigrant



Cree Roper: 3-inch cup, 5.5-inch saucer, and 7.5-inch plate, all with African violets and gold trim.



Martha Kalesse: 6.5-inch vase and 5.5 x 1.5-inch salt shaker displaying wild roses.

ceramic chemist from Dresden, and his neighbor, Maria Longworth Nichols, experimented with imported overglaze china paints, which they called "mineral paints" at the time. After local exhibits, the group they formed hired Marie Eggers, an immigrant who studied the art of china painting in Dresden, to teach classes in 1874. The result was the work exhibited by the Eggers group at the 1876 Philadelphia exposition. Despite brief periods of popularity for other painting styles, the Dresden mode dominated the craft in the 20th century.⁸

Two notable German-American teachers who painted in the Dresden style were Anna Junk of Salem and Martha Kalesse of Portland. Mrs. Junk was born in New Hampshire in 1842 and died in 1932. She was one of the earliest pioneers of the craft in Oregon.

After exhibiting a prize-winning still life painting at the Oregon State Fair in 1880, she won several prizes for her porcelain painting and exhibited at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. She had opened an art studio in Salem about 1880 and operated the first china firing kiln in the Willamette Valley.⁹

Martha Kalesse was born in 1883 in Zurich, Switzerland, and died in Oregon in 1962. She and her husband Gustav were trained in the Dresden style of flower painting in Germany. Her delicate floral images, painted near the edges of each pictorial field, were emulated by many later artists. Between 1921 and 1928 she painted special commissions for the Cascade China Company, Portland, which included everything from flowers to parrots, depending on the orga-

nization commissioning the work. The Clayton China (1929-1932) also employed her for a variety of painted forms.

As her protégé Adrienne Newell explained to the author much later, “Mrs. Kalesse could paint in any style.” The Kalesse porcelain repair and painting shop in downtown Portland continued until her death in 1962.¹⁰

Two other influential Northwest teachers also painted in variations of the Dresden floral style: Cree Roper of Portland and Mary Steele of Spokane. Roper, the widow of Paul Roper (1877-1918), who was killed in World War I, was born in Illinois in 1879 and died in Portland in 1933. Her studio was located above the Dahl and Penne cardroom near the west end of the Morrison Bridge, from 1923 to 1933. Her painted flowers are in an advanced Dresden manner, with carefully executed images, often of native plant varieties clustered in the corner of the pictorial field of plates and elegantly modeled and shadowed.¹¹

Mary Steele was born in Spokane in 1890 and died in eastern Washington in 1968. She was the daughter of Joseph A. Steele, who worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad. She boarded with her father while establishing the Steele Art Studio in Spokane during World War I. Her delicate flower paintings, with bright colors rendered in advanced Dresden thin brush strokes inspired regional painters for over 40 years. Like the others named, Miss Steele was a teacher of teachers.¹²

The four teachers named, Anna Junk, Martha Kalesse, Cree Roper, and Mary Steele, were very influential on the craft of porcelain painting in the region up to the beginning of World War II. The war caused a decline in the number

of painters and associations, because of shortages and the expense of porcelain blanks and pigments, until about 1958, when a group of Dallas, Texas artists promoted a renaissance of the craft in America.

Although the pigments, kilns, and techniques are now more sophisticated than the era of our great-grandmother, flower painting is still the most popular subject at the public exhibitions and association meetings. The range of decorative techniques is larger now, and, for many painters “the iron in the blood and the breath in the lungs” are still there.

For further information on identifying and dating hand-painted porcelain heirlooms, the reader is directed to the works cited, especially Dorothy Kamm’s 1997 masterpiece.

Mrs. Kamm mentions only one regional painter in her book, Mary Steele of Spokane, but her general coverage of the history and technology of the craft is unsurpassed.¹³

Endnotes

- 1 Dorothy Kamm, *American Painted Porcelain* (Paducah, Kentucky: Collector Books, 1997):11-14_
- 2 Henrietta B. Paist, “Looking Backward”, *Keramic Studio*, July-August 1917: 10_
- 3 Jack Cleaver, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon, personal communication, 1996_
- 4 Margaret Sargeant, *Royal Crown Derby* (Buckinghamshire: Shire Publications, 2000) _
- 5 Kamm 1997: 12-16_
- 6 Lawrence Kreisman and Glenn Mason, *The Arts and Craft Movement in the Pacific Northwest* (Portland: Timber Press, 2007)._
- 7 Jack Cleaver, Oregon Historical Society, and Richard Pugh, Portland, Oregon, facilitated the analysis of their collections, examined in 1996 and 2008, respectively._
- 8 Kamm 1997:11-14_
- 9 Ginny Allen and Jodi Clevitt, *Oregon Painters* (Portland: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1999): 203._
- 10 Obituary, “Martha Kalesse,” *The Oregonian*, 13 July 1962, page 13, col. 3; Obituary, *The Oregon Journal*, 13 July 1962, page 2, col. 7; Interview with Adrienne Newell, Kalesse Porcelain Studio, Portland, Oregon, June 12, 1995._
- 11 Interviews with Richard Pugh, Portland collector, 1996 and 2008_
- 12 Kamm 1997: 16_
- 13 Kamm 1997_

Comments and suggestions should be sent to the Column Editor, Harvey Steele: harveysteel@verizon.net.



Minnie Luken: 7.5-inch plate with green peas.

Story Teller

Portland State University, My Family, and the Last 50 Years

By Gerald S. Lenzen

The history of Portland State University (PSU) is closely linked with my own family's personal and intellectual growth and development. PSU had its beginnings as Vancouver Extension Center in 1946 closely following the end of the wars in Europe and Asia. This was to satisfy the need for education of the many individuals being released from their duties in the armed services. The Federal government had passed two laws that were of magnificent help to the returning veterans. One was the opportunity to attend a college to obtain a degree with a monthly stipend for financial support. The second was to provide low-cost loans so the veterans could purchase their own home.

The massive Columbia River flood in 1948 broke the dikes holding the river from the low ground where the new "college" town was located. The college moved for one term to Grant High School, and then to Vancouver Ship yard. The Oregon Extension Center, of the Oregon State System of Higher Education, was established in Portland in 1948, shortly succeeded by Portland State Extension Center. In 1949, the college moved from "Vanship" as it was affectionately known to the old Lincoln High School building in Southwest Portland. In the spring of 1955, the name Portland State College was legislated and it became a real institution on the anniversary of the State of Oregon, February 14, 1955. It now became a degree-granting institution in several disciplines for liberal studies. Education was a major focus of those degrees. The creation of this college corresponded with my next step in life.

I had graduated from Benson Polytechnic High School in June of 1955. I had planned to take a job as a sheet metal apprentice upon graduation. I had chosen this as my major when I was a junior in high school. My future became complicated when I was called to the counseling office in March of that year. My English teacher, Mrs. Minerva (Minnie) Wood, evidently had seen academic opportunity in me of which I had not been aware. I was a strong B+ student but considered that was because I was attending a technical high school. Mrs. Wood said she had arranged a one-year college scholarship for Portland State College (as it was commonly known by then) from Holladay Park Kiwanis and she needed to know if I would accept it by the end of the next week.

I went home to discuss this potential different future with my parents. I had been raised to understand that when I graduated from high school, I was responsible for finding a job and a place to live other than with my parents. I wanted to take advantage of the scholarship offer, at least for the

one-year period. I had spoken with my shop instructor, and he in turn had spoken with the union, about delaying my entrance into the trade for a year. The union approved.

At the same time I was discussing the delay of the union apprentice job with my instructor, I was negotiating to stay at home with my parents. This was especially important because I had little income. I got a job as a janitor with Pacific Northwest Bell. My father worked for them as a maintenance supervisor and he checked with the telephone company employment office about job openings available. I applied for a job the next day. I worked for this company through six years of college. My regular part-time job was to clean the building where the construction crews parked their trucks at SW 11th and Mill Street, very near the PSC buildings that existed at that time. This building has been gone for many years. The telephone company was my main source of income. PSC also provided other income opportunities for me as ticket seller, gatekeeper, general laborer, etc., at numerous college events.

It had been important for me to negotiate with my parents because they had three younger sisters at home to feed and clothe. I wanted only a place to sleep and an occasional breakfast. This arrangement did work out for all of us. The sister next to me in age was married in 1958, so her departure put less pressure on the household income. The other two sisters were much younger. My parents had two sets of children, the first two born in 1937 and 1939 in Wisconsin, the other two born in 1953 and 1955 in Portland.

So, everything apparently being lined up, I was off to Portland State College in the fall of 1955. I ended up matriculating for five more years after expiration of the Kiwanis scholarship. I majored in Engineering for three years before realizing I needed additional technical background in mathematics and related disciplines to be able to graduate in the Portland area. Those classes were only available on campus in Corvallis at Oregon State College. I did receive a two-year certificate in Engineering Technology from PSU. Much of this credit was earned back at my old high school shops. These shops were used because the college had no facilities.

After trying some science and social science classes, anthropology seemed to be an interesting major. I had extremely good instructors in these classes. This was a continuance of my experience in the engineering, math, and writing classes. Anthropology exposed me to Archaeology and the earth sciences. I ended up taking a degree in General Studies—Science with a major in Geology. Finally, in

1961, two years later than the rest of my class, but typical of others at the time, I graduated.

Several things happened to me at Portland State College that may never have happened if I had gone on with my sheet metal apprenticeship. These events helped shape my views of the wider world in which we exist. I had only one ancestor who had gone beyond high school. That was my grandfather, Mathias Joseph Lenzen. He attended St. John's College in Collegeville, Minnesota with the legacy from his father's death. He received a two-year degree in Education. He became a teacher of English to German-speaking children in Brown County, Minnesota.

Personal and personality development, as well as intellectual development, are available in the university environment. My sophomore year at PSC, I was invited by a member of Delta Tau Rho Fraternity, a local organization, to pledge their organization. With several others from the engineering classes, I did become a member of the "Delts." Eventually I became the President of the group and became involved in student politics. I was inspired to serve on the Representative Assembly several terms and even to run on a college wide ticket for Student Body Vice President with Dick Feeney as the Presidential candidate. We lost by less than 10 votes, but this was very a valuable lesson in civic involvement at the college level. In 1961, the Delts affiliated with Kappa Sigma Fraternity. I also became a member of that national fraternity. Both organizations are a part of my life today.

I was active in the combined Fraternity/Sorority Council. I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the Portland State Co-Operative Association (Bookstore), which had its roots in Vanport. I served for three years, two as President of the Co-Op Board. Portland State sponsored a Winter Carnival at Timberline Lodge several years. This gave me an opportunity to meet many students from other universities throughout the western United States. Here, in 1958, I was Admissions Chairman, both in Portland and on Mt. Hood.

The most important contact that I made at PSU was Connie Miller. We dated for a couple of years and were married in September 1959. We will be married 50 years on September 19, 2009. Connie received her undergraduate degree in Education in 1960 from PSC, and her Masters Degree in Mathematics Education in 1981 from PSU.

This union led to two children, Dan and Jenny. They are both graduates of Portland State University (PSU) that received the designation in 1969. We also have an adopted daughter, Mary, who is a graduate with a PSU Master's Degree.

The college experience was very helpful when we started to do formal research on our families. Historical family research requires discipline and an understanding of the processes involved in research. It transferred very easily from the academic environment to the family research

environment.

I had grown up driving back to Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois each summer to visit with relatives. My father was the baby of twelve siblings. My mother was an only child. Consequently, most of the visiting with relatives was with my dad's side of the family. There were 37 first cousins in my generation in the Lenzen family alone. There were several hundred "cousins" from different generations. I met all of my Lenzen first cousins. Many were much older than me. Some had children my age. In order to sort them out and keep track of them, I started to use lists of families. Later, after marriage, I discovered family group sheets produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, also known as the Mormons. The forms made the task much easier.

I was born on a very small farm near Glidden, Ashland County, Wisconsin. My father had been born near there on February 15, 1912. There is that near St. Valentine date again. It seems to pop up everywhere. After being married in Wisconsin, my folks left for Oregon in October 1941 for a job for dad at the old Libby cannery south of Powell Blvd. A friend that my father had met when they were in Southeastern Oregon doing work for the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's had located this job for him in Oregon.

Shortly after we arrived, WWII broke out and both parents went to work for Kaiser Industries. They worked there throughout the war. Following the war, dad got a job at the Pacific Northwest Bell telephone company. He eventually retired from there in 1974. My mother was a housewife in their early part of their marriage. I do remember her working for Singer Sewing Machine Company in the Hollywood District as both a saleswoman and sewing instructor. She ran the cafeteria at LaSalle High School after they opened. She retired from there when my dad retired from the telephone company.

Their move west from Wisconsin to Oregon was to provide opportunity for their children that would not have been available in the hardwood forest of Northern Wisconsin. There were times when we had children from Catholic Charities living with us before the two youngest girls were born. We always had a full house.

The family's move to Oregon provided me with an opportunity to attend a technical school and to attend Portland State College that was created at the exact time I needed one for higher education. By taking advantage of those opportunities, I became an example of my parents dream fulfilled. My great satisfaction was that I was able to secure a college degree, as did my grandfather.

Gerald Lenzen is a Life Member of the GFO and serves on the Education Committee. He is a member of APG and NGS and lectures on a variety of genealogical subjects.

State-by-State

West Virginia Research

By Judith Beaman Scott

West Virginia research may present some unique challenges to the researcher but it can also provide unique opportunities. West Virginia became a state on June 20, 1863, during the Civil War, when 50 Virginia Counties separated to form a new state. Five new West Virginia counties were organized after the split: Summers, Mingo, Grant, Mineral and Lincoln. The first present-day West Virginia County was Hampshire, formed in 1754 from the Virginia counties of Augusta and Frederick. The last was Mingo, formed in 1895 from Logan County. So, where does one look for those early records? It depends. West Virginia Counties retained their records when the state was formed, but if you had very early West Virginia ancestors you might need to research both states. For example, I had ancestors "on the Greenbrier" [River] in the 1770's. Greenbrier County was formed in Virginia in 1778, so I can research my Greenbrier ancestor in West Virginia county records. However my ancestor was there before 1778 so I also need to look in Botetourt County, Virginia, the parent county of Greenbrier. Most area researchers are quite familiar with the evolution of Virginia counties and maps of county formation are readily available on the internet.¹

Researching coal miners, coal mines and coal mine disasters is a large part of West Virginia research. John Peter Salley discovered coal in 1742 in what would become West Virginia and it is found in 53 of the 55 counties.² The first commercial coal mine opened near Wheeling in 1810; with the advent of the railroad coal mining became a major force throughout the state.

Very few early coal miners escaped the mines unharmed. My own grandfather was injured in several mine accidents, including a broken back in 1937, probably from an explosion at the Macbeth mine. His wife's cousin, Leonard Forbes was killed in one of the two disasters that occurred in that mine. Before 1925, the Department of Mines annual report listed the names of the victims of fatal mine accidents but after 1925 no names were published, although the accidents were investigated. Copies of those reports can be found at libraries in the state and around the country. The West Virginia Office of Miners' Health Safety & Training (WVMHS&T) maintains copies of all investigations for seven years, and then the records are transferred to the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. If someone in your family was killed in a mine disaster (five fatalities pre-1961, three after) there will probably be a more detailed file. Local newspaper accounts are a good source of information, and often include photos of events and people. The West Virginia state archives site has a list of news articles about mine disasters beginning in 1886 through 1992. The articles can be found in the vertical

newspaper files at the State Archives Library.

There is a West Virginia Coal Mining site at <http://www.wvgenweb.org/wvcoal> which includes stories, pictures and some look up volunteers. Rootsweb.com has a West Virginia Coal Miners message board that puts you in touch with other researchers and provides a great deal of information on the lives of the miners. The United States Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration has a National Mine Health and Safety Academy Library in West Virginia. It was created in 1976 "to provide comprehensive and integrated information services in the area of mine safety and health."³ The library houses a collection of material relating to mine disasters from 1840 to the present as well as other mining related information. The website (<http://www.msha.gov/TRAINING/LIBRARY/library.htm>) has searchable databases that include photographs, videos and accident reports beginning in the 1840's. When I searched for "Macbeth," six reports of fatal mine accidents at the Macbeth mine in Logan County were listed. The title of the report, location of the event, date, the name of the mine and mining company and a short narrative description of the event are displayed. When I click on the particular report I want I get a message that tells me there is currently no digital image available and to contact the Library for a copy.

Technical Information Center & Library

1301 Airport Rd.

Beaver WV 25813

Email: MSHALibrary@dol.gov

Telephone: 304.256.3266

If you visit the Library make sure to take the nearby Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine tour to see how mining was done in the past. You ride on tracks into an old coal mine in "man cars" 1500 feet beneath the hills to old working areas of the mine. An experienced coal miner is your tour guide, stopping at various spots to explain mining techniques. At the site of the mine is a restored company town that has been moved to the site from old coal camps.

Any research trip in the state should include visiting some of the various historic sites. One site is Tu-Endie-Wei (the point between two waters) State Park, the site of the October 10, 1774, Battle of Point Pleasant often called the first battle of the Revolutionary War. Shawnee and Mingo Indians led by Chief Cornstalk tried to keep Virginia militia led by Andrew Lewis, out of the Ohio country. The Virginians were encamped at Point Pleasant, where the Kanawha and Ohio rivers meet. The battle led to the Treaty of Camp Charlotte in which the Delaware, Shawnee and Mingo tribes gave up any claim to lands south of the Ohio River (modern Kentucky) which in turn allowed more peaceful settlement

of the region. The grave of Chief Cornstalk, as well as those of militia men who died there are located at the Point Pleasant park, a beautiful spot overlooking the confluence of the rivers. A memorial obelisk lists the names of the men who died there. The local DAR chapter maintains the Mansion House Museum, an old log tavern, on the park grounds and offers pamphlets about the battle and the men who fought in it for a small donation. Descendants of men who were in the battle are eligible for DAR membership.

My favorite part of West Virginia research is done in person. The people I talk to are friendly and helpful and the scenery can be breathtaking. There's a reason the song says "Almost Heaven." On many occasions, usually with other family members in tow, I research rural coalfield areas where my family lived. In June 2008 I was in Logan County, where my grandfather was a miner, looking for the location of a farm the family lived on when my mother was very young. Bottom land is scarce in the coalfields, and homes line the "branches" (creeks) or "hollows." I drove up Balls Branch, to the head of the hollow, looking for anything recognizable, then turned around and started back. There was an older gentleman in his yard and I stopped to ask directions and explained what we were looking for. About three pages of notes later I drove off to the correct branch. Not only did the man know the location of the farm, he knew all about the family my grandfather bought it from, where all the members of that family had lived, the remaining family members and where they currently lived and the fact that my Mom's oldest sister had married the son of the landowner. He also shared couple of mighty interesting antidotes about that particular family.

Once we drove up the correct hollow, I stopped at the end where the old house would have been. The house was gone and a new one had replaced it. The owner was out in his yard and I ask if I could take pictures and again explained why. Although he had not known the early families there he did know the history of the house and he pointed out the homes of the current members of the Garrett family. He allowed me to take pictures and told us to come back anytime. That's the great part of doing that kind of research in person. I always get more than I was looking for, and often get invited onto the porch for a glass of sweet tea as well.

Another time my cousin's wife took two of her aunts looking for the home place of "Mammy Jane", the heroine of a local book that we all loved, based on a real family.⁴ She knew the country road Mammy Jane had built her house on in the 1800's so she drove to see if she could find it. Not only did they find the house, from the descriptions in the book, they were invited in to house by the current resident, a descendant of the family in the book. After touring the house she took them up the hill to the family cemetery. And yes, I believe they had a glass of sweet tea.

I have climbed many a hill in West Virginia looking at cemeteries. The old cemeteries are always on top of the hill; the precious bottom land was saved for farming. Some are taken care of, but many others are overgrown so be prepared

to wade through brush, bugs, poison ivy and maybe a snake or two. By the way, last year I learned the hard way how the Greenbrier River got its name – those thorns are nasty!

Of course West Virginia offers the traditional archive and library research. Both Marshall University in Huntington and West Virginia University in Morgantown have collections of genealogical and historical records available to the public. The West Virginia State Archives Library is located in the Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston and is open six days a week. Microfilm copies of original county records are available, as well as land tax books and personal property tax records, census records and state records, just to name a few. You can visit their website at <http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va> to find guides for the collections. The Library does do some limited research request, by mail only. There is an Archives and History online public access catalog for searching at <http://archives.lib.wv.us:71>.

The website itself offers some great information. You can find historical records, photos and best of all the Vital Research Records Project, an ongoing joint effort of the West Virginia State Archives and the Genealogical Society of Utah. The site offers searchable indexes for birth, marriage and death records and images of the documents at http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx. For death records, depending on the date and location, you might get a copy of a county record book or a state death certificate, and sometimes both. It is an ongoing project so check back from time to time. Each year new death records are added as they reach the 50-year mark (currently through 1958). Birth records are added when the 100-year mark has passed. On the search page is a link to an explanation of the project, which contains some very useful information, and the records that are included in the project. Marriage records vary from county to county; Berkeley County has marriage records posted from 1780. Most counties have records available through 1968-70, but Wetzel county marriages are online through 1978.

If you have the opportunity, do your West Virginia research in person. Like the neighboring states, including Virginia and Kentucky, the sense of history is palpable at times. Standing where your ancestors once lived or fought or died adds so much depth to your history. The chance to see some beautiful scenery and meet some great people is frosting on the cake!

(Endnotes)

1 Family History 101, West Virginia County Formation Maps, accessed July 23, 2009 http://www.familyhistory101.com/maps/wv_cf.html

2 West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training, *West Virginia Coal Mining Facts* <http://www.wvminesafety.org/wvcoalfacts.htm>, accessed July 2009

3 US Dept of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, *Technical Information Center and Library, National Mine Health and Safety Academy* <http://www.msha.gov/TRAINING/LIBRARY/library.htm>

4 Sibyl J. Pischke, *The Legend of Mammy Jane*, McClain Print. Co., 1981.

Extracts . . .

1874 Columbia County Land Assessments

By Jim Rogers

Editor's Note: Additional information is included in these records which are available at the GFO Library. The complete list of categories include: Value of each City or Town Lot; Value of all City or Town Lots; Value of Improvements; Value of Merchandise and Implement; Money, Notes, Accounts, and Shares of Stocks; Household Furniture; Pleasure Carriages; Watches &c.; No. of Horses and Mules-Value; Number of Cattle-Value; Number of Sheep & Goats-Value; Number of Swine-Value; Gross value of all property; Indebtedness within State; Exemption; Total Value of Taxable Property as Equalized by County Board; Poll; No of Road Dist.; and Remarks. Due to page space limitations, we're not able to display all categories.

State of Oregon - County of Columbia

We the undersigned constituting the Board of Equalization for the said county met at the court house in St Helens in said county on the last Monday the 31st of August A D 1874 and [?]ded to examine, correct and equalize the foregoing assessments per changes therein made and adjourn this 1st day of September 1874.

Dean Blanchard - county judge

Charles E Perrine - assessor

George Merrill - county clerk

State of Oregon - Columbia County

I, Charles E Perrine, assessor of said county do solemnly swear that the foregoing assessment roll contains a full, true, accurate, and complete (errors excepted) account of all taxable property in said county, as far as I have upon diligent search and inquiry been able to discover the same, that said property has been by me valued in equal and rateable proportion and that in making said assessment I have in all other respects and to the best of my ability complied with the requirements of the act and amendatory acts relating to assessments. Subscribed and sworn to Charles E Perrine, assessor of Columbia County, Oregon, before me this 7th day of September AD 1874. George Merrill - County Clerk of Columbia County Ogn; Examined and approved by me this 7th day of September 1874 -

Dean Blanchard

Name	Descriptions of land	Section	Twp ----- Lot	Range ----- block	No of Acres of Agricul- tural Land	Remarks
McElhany, J A						
McKillig, J						
Morton, R						
Meeker, Wm	lots in St Helens		5, 6, 7 (& 8)			
			18, 16,	18		
			2			
			11	10		over 50
Miles, S A	Cal or Col (?) lands				100	
	N 1/2 of NE 1/4	19	7N	2W	80	
					160	
					160	
	block in Columbia City			25		
	lots in St Helens		2 & 4			
			17 & 21			
Miles, Mrs E	N 1/2 J Miles donation	18 & 13	3N	1, 2W	310	
	donation of Purdum	36 & 31	6N	1, 2W	320	
McNulty, J T	NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 & SW 1/4 of					
	NE 1/4 & lots 1, 2, 3	7	4N	1W	111.50	
McNulty, John	donation	5, 6, 7, 8	4N	1W	302	
	part donation of Wilson	32 & 33	5, 6 N	1W	160	

	lots 1, 2, 6	5	5N	1W	54.44	over 50
McCoy, N D		24	4N	2W	108	
Mordoff, M						over 50
Morgan, J L	homestead					
Murry, A H	preemption					
Merrill, N	part of J Merrill donation	4 & 5	5N	1W	228	
Merrill, L	NW 1/4	6	5N	1W	160	
Merrill, J	part donation	5 & 6	5N	1W	210	
	part C H Reed donation	5, 6, 7	5N	1W	270	
	NE 1/4	6	5N	1W	160	over 50
Merrill, Geo	N 1/2 donation	4, 5, 8, 9	5N	1W	390	
Merrill, F						
Merril, E	N 1/2 donation of Burr	36 & 31	6N	1, 2W	164	
	lot in Columbia City		9	27		
May, E T						
McNemee, M	donation of Stoughton	19 & 24, 25 & 30	4N	1, 2W	320	
Morse, W B						
McGillis, D						
McBrarity, Wm						
McBride, T A	individual 1/2 of SW 1/4	36	5N	2W	80	
Mars, W W	part donation of Miller				93	
McPherson, D						
McPherson, John	donation	5 & 6, 31 & 32	4N	1, 2W	634.65	over 50
Maky, M	donation	1 & 6	4N	1, 2W	294.30	over 50
Miles, S D	S 1/2 donation of J Miles	13 & 18	3N	1, 2W	312	
Maxwell, G W	part donation of J Caples	28	5N	1W	31	
	lots & blocks in Columbia City	Many. See origi- nal tax list for details				
Musgrove, Wm	lots 1, 6, 7 & NW 1/4 of NW 1/4	23	3N	1W	178.88	
	lots 1 thru 4	14	3N	1W	194.75	
	W 1/2 of SW 1/4 & W 1/2 of NW 1/4	14	3N	1W	160	
	lot 5	15	3N	1W	47.25	
	lot 5	10	8N	1W	19.10	
	SE 1/4 of SE 1/4	10	3N	1W	40	
	E 1/2 of NE 1/4	10	3N	1W	80	
	SE 1/4 of WS 1/4	3	3N	1W	40	
	E 1/2 of NW 1/4	10	3N	1W	80	
	N 1/2 of SE 1/4 & W 1/2 of NE 1/4	10	3N	1W	160	non-resident
Musgrove, Wm, agent for	Put Smith					non-resident
	G W Vaughn					non-resident
	Carr					non-resident
	T Sherlock					non-resident
	Al Zebeir					non-resident
	L Godard					non-resident
	W Acker					non-resident
Marquam, P A	SE 1/4	14	4N	2W	160	
	NW 1/4	16	7N	3W	160	non-resident
Miers, A	S 1/2 of SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 of SE 1/4	26	4N	2W	120	non-resident
McNulty, F						
Monteith, C E	SE 1/4	14	6N	2W	160	non-resident
Marlin, W B	NE 1/4	16	7N	5W	160	non-resident

Name	Descriptions of land	Section	Twp ----- Lot	Range ----- block	No of Acres of Agricul- tural Land	Remarks
Meeker, Mrs E	entire entry crossed out in original					
Marsh, H F						over 50
McBride, J H	Name and entire entry crossed out.					non-resident
McBride, James	part J G Caples donation	28	5N	1W	49	
	blocks in Columbia City. Many. See original tax list for details					
	lots in St Helens		8, 9, 10, 11	42		
			12, 13	19		non-resident
McBride, Geo	undivided 1/2 of SW 1/4	36	5N	2W	80	
McBride, M	Stricken out by order of the court for the reason of non-resident and no real estate.					
Maupin, M						
McGraw, A	donation of J H Piper	23 & 26	8N	4W	320	
Morgan, Wm (non-resident)						turned over to sheriff May 4
						1874 for collection
Moeck, G F						
McEvers, L	lot in Columbia City		1	28		
Moody, W C	part of C E Fox donation	16 & 21	7N	2W	6	non-resident
Minear, Mrs Elizabeth	lots in Rainier		3, 4			
			7, 8	12		
			5, 6	13		
			3, 4			non-resident
			7, 8	15		non-resident
Mason, Mary	lots in Columbia City		11, 12	21		non-resident
Martin, W H	lots in St Helens		17, 20	19		
McFern, T J	lots in Columbia City		11, 12	29		non-resident
Mason, O P	undivided 1/2 of C Neer donation				80	non-resident
Miers & Frank	SW 1/4 of NW 1/4	28	3N	1W	70	non-resident
Morrison, C	S 1/2	36	8N	5W	304	
Myrick, J	lots in St Helens Many. See original tax list for details.					non-resident
Mullery, E						
Meeker, G						
McKay, A						
McDonald, A						
Morjj, H F						
Martin, W						
McFadden, M						
McCann, J						
McNelly, C						
Nichols, W W	lot in Columbia City		12	22		
Nicolai, L	N 1/2 of SE 1/4 & NE 1/4	36	7N	3W	240	
	SE 1/4 of SW 1/4	25	7N	3W	40	
	N 1/2 of NW 1/4	31	7N	2W	80	
Nice, Mrs M	part of C E Fox donation	17	7N	2W	320	

Nice, H N						
Nice, H						
Neer, Wm	NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 & NW 1/4 of SE 1/4	18	7N	2W	80	
Neer, B	lot in Columbia City		4	55		
Neer, A	E 1/2 of NW 1/4	25	6N	2W	80	
	E 1/2 of J Peacher donation	19 & 30	6N	1W	200	
	N 1/2 of W 1/2 of SE 1/4 & N 1/2					
	of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 & N 1/2 of					
	lots 4, 5, & 6	24	6N	2W	159.47	
	lot in Columbia City		10	29		
Neer, Mrs E	E part Jones donation	19 & 24	6N	1, 2W	64	
	lot 2		6N	1W	20.18	
	lot 7		6N	2W	27.91	
	N 1/2 of J Peacher donation		6N	1, 2W	126.11	
	S 1/2 of SE 1/4 & S 1/2 of NE 1/4					
	of SW 1/4 & S 1/2 of lots 4, 5, 6		6N	2W	159.47	
Neer, C A	undivided 1/2 of homestead		4N		80	over 50
Neer, John					80	
Ortig, P						
O' Brien, J J		26	8N	5W	83	
Ormond, F	part of Popleton donation	15	3N	2W	200	
Oakshett, Mrs e	N 1/2 of lot 2	8	7N	4W	16	non-resident
O' Brien, T S						
Olson, O						
Powell, Wm	homestead					
Pickering, Wm						
Pope, S	SW 1/4 of SW 1/4	7	4N	1W	40	
	NW 1/4 of NW 1/4	18	4N	1W	40	
	NE 1/4 of NE 1/4	13	4N	1W	40	
	SE 1/4 of SE 1/4	12	4N	1W	40	over 50
Pray, Wm						paid taxes 72 cents
Popejoy, L B						
Piper, Louis	part Popleton donation	16	3N	2W	160	
Pomeroy, E						
Pomeroy, M M	homestead					
Perry, F	donation	5, 31, 32	4, 5 N	1W	458	over 50
Perry, O T						non-resident
Perry, F C	NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 & frac of NE 1/4					
	& SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 & frac of NW					
	1/4 of SE 1/4				140	
Patterson, T	lot 10	2	7N	5W		
	NE 1/4 of NW 1/4	11	7N	5W	76.5	
	fraction S 1/2	35	8N	5W		swamp lands & claims
	lots 2 thru 6	1	7N	5W		it should be assessed
	lots 1 thru 8	2	7N	5W		
	SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 & S 1/2 of NW 1/4	2	7N	5W		see (?) blank
	lots 1 thru 10 & SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 & N 1/2 of SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 of SW 1/4	3	7N	5W	1284	
Peacher, J						over 50
Peacher, Eli						
Peacher, Wm						minor

Name	Descriptions of land	Section	Twp ----- Lot	Range ----- block	No of Acres of Agricul- tural Land	Remarks
Perrine, C E	SE 1/4 & N 1/2 of SW 1/4 & lots 1 & 2	2	7N	3W		
	E 1/2 of NE 1/4	11	7N	3W		
	lots 1 & 2	1	7N	3W		
	SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 & lots 1, 2, 3, 4	12	7N	3W	506.97	
	lot in Rainier		1	12		
Pomeroy, Mrs M	lot in St Helens		20	18		
Perlot, J W	donation of T Taylor	21 & 22	4N	1W	156	non-resident
Perry, Mrs Ellen	part donation of F Perry	31 & 5	4N	1W	12	
Paige, H C	NE 1/4	10	6N	2W	160	non-resident
Pfunderplit, Wm	SW 1/4	34	5N	2W	160	non-resident
Patterson, P						
Patterson, J						
Quersole, A						
Quinn, J	part donation E Weld	15 & 16	8N	4W	160	
Quigley, John						
Quivey, E	NE 1/4	10	7N	3W	160	non-resident
Quackenbush, E	NW 1/4	11	4N	2W	160	
	SW 1/4 & N 1/2 of N 1/2	14	4N	2W	320	
	NW 1/4	14	6N	2W	160	
	SW 1/4	16	7N	3W	160	
	undivided S 1/2 of SW 1/4 & N 1/2 of S 1/2 of SE 1/4	11	6N	2W	60	non-resident
Reed & Vestal						turned over to sheriff for collection (non-residents)
Reed, J	part donation of E Weld	16 & 21	8N	4W	160	over 50
Ring, A	NW 1/4 of NW 1/4	29	7N	2W	40	
	SW 1/4 of SW 1/4	20	7N	2W	40	
Rismondo, A						
Reddick & Co						
Reddick, T W	SE 1/4	3	7N	4W	160	over 50
Rowland, Wm Jr						
Rowland, R	homestead					
Rowland, Wm Sr	NE corner McPherson donation	32	4N	1W	5	
Raymond, J R	homestead					
Reid, Wm	lot in Columbia City		6	21		non-resident
Russell, E F & Co		12 & 13	6N	2W	150	non-resident
Russell, E	SW 1/4	16	5N	3W	160	
Russell, E	N 1/2	6	5N	3W	320	non-resident
Russell, E F	NW 1/4	11	6N	2W	160	
Russell, E F	S 1/2 of N 1/2	16	7N	3W	80	
Russell, E F			8N	5W	720	non-resident
Russell, Butterfield & Co			8N	4W	640	non-resident
Ritchey, G C	SW 1/4	14	6N	2W	160	non-resident
Ritz, P	NE 1/4	14	6N	2W	160	non-resident
Rice, D						
Reddick, J						
Rinearson, J S					160	over 50
Steahman, John	lots in Columbia City		3 & 4	29		

Sweeny, T	homestead					
Stoughton, A R						over 50
Salen, C	donation	28	4N	1W	160	
	homestead	27 & 28, 33 & 34	4N	1W	160	over 50
Swager, John	part G Merrill donation	8 & 9, 16 & 17	5N	1W	250	
	lots 1 thru 6	17	5N	1W	168	
Smith, J J						
Slaven, Wm						
Seffert, J	E 1/2 of SW 1/4 & W 1/2 of SE 1/4	25	6N	2W	160	
Steahman, C	N 1/2 of SW 1/4	13	6N	2W	80	over 50
Spooner, S W	Felton place	24	6N	2W	200	
Stump, A	lot 3	24	3N	2W	43.35	
	undivided N 1/2 of S 1/2 of Jackson donation	24	3N	2W	80	
Stump, C	E 1/2 of SE 1/4 & SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 & SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 & lots 6, 7, 8, 9	19	3N	1W	247.20	
	lots 10, 11, 12 & 6, 7 & SW 1/4 of SE 1/4	20	3N	1W	280.17	non-resident
Stump, L	undivided N 1/2 of S 1/2 of Jackson donation	24	3N	2W	80	
	lots 10, 11, 12 & SW 1/4 of SE 1/4	17	3N	1W	140.12	
Silvers, J	lots in Rainier		6 & 7 5	10 4		
Solario, F	SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 & SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 of SW 1/4	13	7N	3W	120	
Stephens, F						
Slaven, A	SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 & SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 & W 1/2 of SW 1/4	28	4N	1W	160	
	Stevens donation	7 & 8, 17 & 18	4N	1W	320	

Scott, E						
Simmons, Wm						
Soule, B						
Sutton, S P						
Scott, Wm						over 50 S C Enyart pays tax
Thessing, Dr	SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 & NE 1/4 of SE 1/4	1	7N	5W	80	non-resident
Thomas, H						
Taylor, T H	donation of Cunningham lot in St Helens	3, 10, 15	4N 11	1W 10	629	
Tichnor, A M					160	
Turnahan, F	NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 & NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 & lots 5 & 6	19 & 24	8N	4W	120.18	over 50
Tucker, H	SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 of SE 1/4	4	7N	5W		
	NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 & NW 1/4 of NE 1/4	9	7N	5W	160	over 59
Turpin, J S						
Tinker, H H	N 1/2 of NE 1/4 & SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 & NW 1/4 of SE 1/4	20	7N	4W	160	
Tedford & Flarahty	lots in Columbia City		4 & 9	28		non-resident

Name	Descriptions of land	Section	Twp ----- Lot	Range ----- block	No of Acres of Agricultural Land	Remarks
Thomas, J	lots in St Helens		19	19		non-resident
Thompson, F A	SW 1/4	11	7N	3W	160	non-resident
<p>Unknown real estate</p> <p>lots & blocks in St Helens</p> <p>Many dozens; too numerous to list. See original for details. Many of these lots and blocks are included in the Davis & Lancaster claim to said town site and the balance are considered of no value as no person can be found to pay the taxes on them nor buy them when offered for sale for taxes--so considered by the county board of equalization."</p> <p>lots in Rainier lots & blocks in Columbia City</p> <p>The whole assessed to H Caples in a body & included in S 1/2 of J Caples claim.</p> <p>We the board deem this property of little value and reduce the assessment to about \$1.00 per lot making the total value of \$80.00 Many. see originals for details..</p>						
Vancleave, B						
Vancleave, S	donation of E Popleton	14 & 15	3N	2W	160	
Victor, Mrs F F	part Lamont donation	33 & 34	5N	1W	40	
	lot in Columbia City		7	33		
	lots in St Helens	3, 4, 5	12			non-resident
Voorhees, J	lots in Rainier	2	14			
		1/2 of 1	9			
		2, 3, 4	6			non-resident
Vanschroeder, E	SE 1/4	4	7N	4W	120	non-resident
Vall, L						
Vandevere, A H						
Wibeirge, C M	fractinal sec	16	3N	1W	430.98	
	homestead of Westmark		3N	1W	154.15	non-resident
Woodard, Geo	NW 1/4	29	5N	1W	160	non-resident
Waldman, A	SW 1/4	34	6N	2W	160	non-resident
Waite, A E	NW 1/4	15	7N	3W	160	non-resident
Wolf, H	NE 1/4	23	7N	3W	160	non-resident
West, John	lots 4, 5, 6	31	8N	5W	68.46	non-resident
Warren, F M	lots 1, 2, 3 & SW 1/4 of SW 1/4	15	7N	2W	122.42	
	lot 1 & NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 & N 1/2 of NW 1/4	22	7N	2W	153	
	fractional part of NE 1/4	21	7N	2W	3	
	fractional part of SE 1/4	16	7N	2W	6	non-resident
West, W W	NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 & lot 1	32	4N	1W	70	
	SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 & lots 2 & 3	33	4N	1W	97.81	
	donation of Lambertson	5 thru 8	3N	1W	277	
	donation of Messiner	5 thru 8	3N	1W	320	
	N 1/2 of NW 1/4	33	4N	1W	80	
	E 1/2 of NE 1/4	32	4N	1W	80	
	lots 4 & 5 & SW 1/4 of NW 1/4	4	3N	1W	126	
	& lots 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10	5	3N	1W	242.23	

Wadhams, Wm as-signee of						
Williams brothers estate	NE 1/4 & SW 1/4	31	5N	1W	317.85	
	lot 3 & NW 1/4 of NW 1/4	32	5N	1W	78.20	
	lot 3 & N	19	6N	1W		
	NE 1/4 &	30	6N	1W		
	S 1/2 of SW 1/4	29	6N	1W	244.16	
	lot 2 &	30	6N	1W		
	NW 1/4 of SW 1/4	29	6N	1W	76.60	
	N 1/2 C Neer donation	28 & 29	5 N	1W	160	
	all of	16	4N	2W	640	
	NW 1/4	36	6N	2W	160	
	SW 1/4	20	5N	2W	160	
	E 1/2	19	5N	2W	320	
	lots in Columbia City		9 & 10	24		
			2	21		
			6	1		
	strand in front of		3	3		non-resident
Windle, M	homestead					
Wallace, John	homestead					
Whitney, W H	part McNulty donation	5 & 6	4N	1W	160	
Wapper, Jos						
Webber, AB						
Walker, W A						
Walker, R A	part Foster donation	19	4N	1W	85	
Watts, R T	N 1/2 Watts donation	7 & 12	3N	1, 2 W	150	
	lot in St Helens		1	17		
	lot in Columbia City		1	22		
Watts, T C	lot in St Helens		16	26		
Watts, F H	SW 1/4 of SW 1/4	12	3N	2W	30	
	NW 1/4 of NW 1/4	13	3N	2W	30	
	SE 1/4 of NE 1/4	14	3N	2W	40	
Watts, J R	S 1/2 of SE 1/4 & NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 &					
	E 1/2 SW 1/4	4	4N	2W	200	
	SE 1/4	11	3N	2W	160	
	N 1/2 of NE 1/4	14	3N	2W	80	
	S 1/2 of SW 1/4	12	3N	2W	80	
	part Gosa donation				3	
	W 1/2 of Nessley donation	24, 25	4N	2W	100	
	lots in	24, 25	4N	2W	60	
	S 1/2 of W Watts donation	7, 12, 13, 18	3N	1, 2W	317	
	S 1/2 of B M Watts donation	7, 12	3N	1, 2W	100	
Woods, E						
Woods, S	homestead					over 50
Woods, F						
Woods, C	part Lamont donation				100	
	lots in Columbia City		9	20		
			10, 12	26		over 50
Woods, James	lot in Columbia City		1	1		non-resident
Winton, F D						
Wolf, Wm	homestead					over 50
Wagner, W S	lot in Columbia City		6	20		non-resident
Wagner, C G	lot in Columbia City		5	20		
	lot in St Helens		1	11		
Wadliech, J W	lot in Columbia City		6	29		non-resident
White, S	SW 1/4	1	4N	2W	160	non-resident

Name	Descriptions of land	Section	Twp ----- Lot	Range ----- block	No of Acres of Agricultural Land	Remarks
Williams, Mrs F H	lot in Columbia City		8	33		non-residen
Williams, Mrs A	lot in Columbia City		9	33		non-resident
Watkins, W H	lot 1 & 2, N 1/2 of NE 1/4	31	5N	1W	158	non-resident
Westwick, S						
Woodman, Wm						
Wheeler, R A						
Wilson, J N						
Whitig, D						
Wadhams, Wm						Dean Blanchard agent
Yerkes, Mrs H M	SW 1/4 & SW 1/4 of NW 1/4	35	4N	2W	200	
	N 1/2 of NE 1/4 & SE 1/4 of NE 1/4	34	4N	2W	120	
Yeargain, D J	lot in Columbia City		3	3		
Yeargain & Co	lots in Columbia City		4 thru 6 1 thru 4	3 2		
	350 feet of strand					Col[jumbia] City
Yerkes, W H						
Zeiber, Al	NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 & S 1/2 of NW 1/4					
	& NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 & lots 2, 3, 4	2	3N	2W	233	non-resident
List of Chinamen			Turned over to sheriff as delinquent			
May Wing	Ah Slen	Ah Leea	Ah Foe			
Ah Hing	Ah Foe	Ah Foe	Ah Comma Ah Han			
Levi	Ah Ling	D B Chinaman	Ah Hing			
Ah Yan	Ah Slum	D B Chinaman	Ah Lin			
Ah Ching	Ah Sung	D B Chinaman	Ah Son			
Ah Lee	Ah Foo No 2	D B Chinaman	Ah Loe			
Ah Jim	Ah Jim	D B Chinaman	Ah Sin			
Ah Hoe	Ah Zan	Che Han	Ah Maje			
Ah Ching	Ah Hou	Hake	Ah Maj no 2			
Ah Toe	Ah Handy					
Ah Mow	Ah Sue					

Book Review

Gary Boyd Roberts, *The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies of the United States*, Baltimore, Maryland, Genealogical Publishing Company, 2008, 2nd Edition, 920 pages.

Audience: Genealogists and Historians with an interest in early English settlers of royal descent who settled in the American Colonies or the United States.

Purpose: To provide the lineage of the Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants who came to the American Colonies or the United States, and who were notable or left descendants notable in American History. With a 2008 Addendum, Coda, and Final Addition.

Author's qualifications: Gary Boyd Roberts is a Senior Research Scholar emeritus at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Roberts' compiled, *The Mowbray Connection*, a twenty-three volume manuscript, subtitled, *An Analysis of the Genealogical Evolution of British, American, and Continental Nobilities, Gentries, and Upper Classes Since the End of the Middle Ages*. He also wrote *American Ancestors and Cousins of The Princess of Wales* (1984), *Ancestors of American Presidents* (1989, 1995), *The Royal Descents of 500 Immigrants* (1993), and *Notable Kin*, 2 vols. (1998-99). He writes an Internet column which is posted on the NEHGS website.

Content: This book is a compendium of the most recent research, by various researchers, of the royal descent of over 600 immigrants who came to the American Colonies.

Writing style: It is written in an organized manner, with charts to note the descents of each line. The documented sources for the information are provided at the end of each chart.

Organization: The book begins with a thorough introduction, including nine appendices relating to previous published research. Then there is a subject index and guide to 650 immigrants. This is followed by three sections: Immigrant descendents of late medieval and early modern kings, those who died after 1400; Immigrant descendents of high medieval kings, those who died 1200-1400; Immigrant descendents of early medieval kings, those who died 950-1200. There is an addendum for the 2004 edition and an appendix entitled, from Kings via the American colonies to recent sovereigns. Next is the list of abbreviated sources, essential for understanding the book. The overall index covers 212 pages. Following that is the 2006-2008 Addendum, the Coda and a Final Addition, a listing of major notable historical figures and another index covering these three.

Accuracy: The work is very scholarly and easy to follow. Unfortunately there are very few dates for the individuals in the charts. The charts that include lines from my an-

cestral work are very accurate. It is acknowledged that there are still some inaccuracies and there is a need to conduct further research of some of the material. As more information is made available the research results will be refined.

Conclusion: The book is a major compilation of research work done on the royal descent of 600 immigrants who came to the American Colonies and who were notable or left descendants notable in American History from a variety of researchers and sources. While it does not provide much information about the individuals in the charts, such as dates, places or extended family members, it is another source for clues about medieval lines. It is important to use the references in this book to pursue further research. The compiler is interested in the work of other scholarly researchers.

— SL

The Starkels: Volga musicians

Henry and Billy Starkel: This father and son were some of the most prominent Volga German musicians in Portland. Billy Starkel was an active participant in American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) - Portland Chapter activities.

Billy's father, Henry Starkel, was born about 1890 in the colony of Grimm, Russia. Henry's mother was Christine Strecker born February 23, 1894 and was also born in Grimm. They married in Portland, Oregon on November 1, 1913. Henry was an accordion player who performed at weekend dances in a hall above Weimer's Hardware store on Union Avenue (to the dismay of the religious community).

William (Billy) Vincent Starkel was born November 3, 1914 and died January 19, 1988. A memorial service was held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Portland, Oregon on Friday, January 22, 1988.

To learn more about the Starkels, go to www.volgagermans.net/portland/music.html

Book Review

Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, *Dreams of the West; A History of the Chinese in Oregon 1850-1950*, Portland, Oregon, Ooligan Press, Department of English, Portland State University, 2007, First Edition, 109 pages.

Audience: The most interested audience for this book would be those who are researching Discrimination, or Chinese or ethnic groups in Oregon history from 1850-1950. Each page in this book is written in both Chinese and English. The book is written for intermediate or advanced genealogists. An understanding of Oregon geography would aid the reader in understanding why the Chinese lived where they lived.

Purpose: The original purpose of this project, by a committee of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) in 2002, was to consolidate the artifacts, stories, photographs, and other documentation of the Chinese presence in Oregon. The funding for the entire project was to be borne by the CCBA. The book more than meets the initial purpose.

Author's qualifications: After working on the project for a year, the CCBA sought assistance from the History Department at Portland State University (PSU). PSU set up a Capstone program for three graduate and 20 undergraduate students. This group studied and wrote about the historical presence of Chinese in four regions: Southern Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Portland, and Astoria. The completed essays were then submitted to Ooligan Press, the PSU publishing program. Ooligan program students consolidated the four essays into a cohesive whole. They did further research, compiled and catalogued photographs for the text, and laid out the final design. Ren Hangbao translated the English version into Chinese. The book was finally completed after five years.

Content: The members of the committee from CCBA are identified and illustrated in a photograph. A narrative description of the CCBA and Chinese community in Portland, Oregon is included. This book is about the Chinese in two geographic regions and two cities in Oregon. The major names are indexed in two pages in the back of the book. There is a three-page source list. There is a description of the Capstone Course and a name list of the Capstone contributors at PSU. The book has both English and Chinese text on each page with a photograph or depiction of an artifact associated with that text. There are prolific photographs in this book. They depict the Chinese in their work in agriculture, truck farming, fish canneries, road and railroad building, building construction, paper mills, and commercial activity while receiving extreme discrimina-

tion from whites. The images almost tell a story by themselves. The photos are described below in both Chinese and English.

Writing style: The Ooligan Press students did a very adequate job of smoothing out the differences in original writing styles between the Capstone and undergraduate students. With 23 authors, this must have been a monumental task. Still, the story doesn't always flow smoothly from one chapter to the next. This does not create a major distraction because the stories being told in each section are almost unique to those outside the Chinese culture. The sentences are normally short and crisp. This quickly passes information from the written page to the reader.

Organization: Major sections in Immigration, Work, Culture, and Discrimination organize the book. Then, the Ooligan Press students incorporate the various regions investigated by the Capstone students into these categories. Sometimes there are comparisons from different parts of the state. Other times, the various parts of the state are integrated and treated as one entity. Since there is both Chinese and English text, with photos, there is probably less than half the book in text.

Accuracy: There are no endnotes or footnotes, only a source list at the end of the book. Some of the information in this book has been passed to the American culture, but not as deeply as it appears in this book. Even having lived in Oregon for almost 70 years, and doing genealogical research for over 40 years, this reviewer learned a significant amount of knowledge about the Chinese culture throughout the State of Oregon. They have been here since before the state began. Almost all were men who came here from Guangdong Province in China.

Conclusion: *Dreams of the West* is a very enjoyable read. It's one of those books that you don't want to start in the evening. If you do, it will be early morning before you finish it. It's difficult to set down. I read this engaging book three times before I was satisfied I had absorbed most of the main material in it. This is a wonderful addition to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) Library. It helps to expand the ethnic resources at GFO.

— SL

*Comments and suggestions should be sent to the
Column Editor: Susan LeBlanc, dsleblanc@aol.com*

HOT OFF THE PRESS! 1935-1939

**Oregon State Marriage Index
CDs Available – Years 1925-1929,
1930-1934, or the newest CD – 1935-1939**



Cost is \$10 and if mailing is needed, please add \$2.

The marriage indexes are wonderful for both the genealogical community and the state vital records office because the years 1925-1945 have never been indexed. We are continuing the process of extracting marriage information but wanted to break at five-year intervals to get them out as quickly as possible. The CD lists the groom surname and first name, bride surname and first name, date of marriage, county, and registry number. They are fully searchable by the entire state or by county. It runs on Internet Explorer so will work on most computers.

Order from Gen. Forum of Oregon (address on back cover)

PUBLICATION SPECIALIST

Let me help create, revise, or consult on
your newsletter, brochure,
booklet and/or book

Diane Wagner

503-287-0731

Bulletin Layout/Design volunteer



**Wahkeena
Chapter
Portland, Ore.
Saturday Meetings
10 a.m.**

Celebrating 75 years of DAR service
Convenient, central location
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~orwedat/>
Registrar-pattiwirler@comcast.net

***VOLUNTEERS...*
GFO wants YOU!**

Contact

President Lyleth Winther
lylaw1#@verizon.net

or leave a message at the GFO Desk
503-963-1932



**Portland Chapter
Monday Meetings
Elmer's Restaurant
10001 N.E. Sandy Blvd.**

www.DARportland.org

Nedra Brill, Registrar
503-282-1393 • ndbrill@comcast.net

The DAR is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

New!

Oregon Burial Site Guide

Compiled by Dean H. Byrd
Co-compiled by Stanley R. Clarke
and Janice M. Healy

For more information visit our web site:
www.aracnet.com/~healyzh/obsg.html

or write to:

Stoney Way LLC
P.O. Box 5414
Aloha, OR 97007-5414

**GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON, INC
HEADQUARTERS & LIBRARY
PO BOX 42567
PORTLAND OR 97242-0567**

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OREGON
Permit No. 745**

LABEL