

THE BULLETIN

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



Volume 62, Number 1
September 2012

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

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THE BULLETIN

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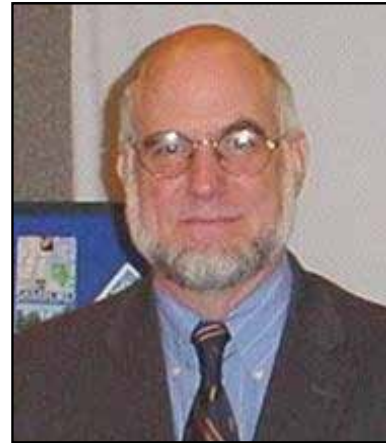
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Genealogical Forum of Oregon Fall Seminar 2012

The GFO welcomes ...

Craig Roberts Scott, CG



Craig Roberts Scott is the CEO and President of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 4,000 titles in print.

A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than twenty-five years, he specializes in the records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the military.

Past APG treasurer and director and a nationally known lecturer and educator, he coordinates the Advanced Military Course at Samford IGHR and teaches in the Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis course, the Writing and Publishing for Genealogists course, and the Virginia Course. He coordinates the SLIG American Military track.

In 2008 he was given the APG Grahame T. Smallwood Award of Merit, and in 2009 the UGA Silver Tray Award.



Saturday
27 October 2012
9 am - 4 pm
Milwaukie Elks

Topics

- Pension Research: You Stopped Too Soon
- Treasury Records: Follow the Money
- Basic Military Research
- Finding Aids in the National Archives

Seminar Features

- Nationally Known Speaker
 - Genealogical Treasures Drawing
 - Book Vendor
 - GFO Surplus Book Sale
-

Genealogical Forum of Oregon Fall Seminar 2012



Event Schedule

- 8:00 am Registration opens
- 9:00 am Opening remarks
- 9:15 am Session 1
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:45 am Session 2
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm Announcements
- 1:30 pm Session 3
- 2:30 pm Break
- 3:00 pm Session 4
- 4:00 pm Program ends

Topics

Pension Research: You Stopped Too Soon

Military pension records are a rich source of family information. This lecture covers three main types of records and where to find them: pension applications, pension office ledgers and cards, and final or last payments.

Treasury Records: Follow the Money

Treasury records document the expenditure of funds by the federal government and its agents. They cover a diverse spectrum of activities on the part of the government and are virtually untapped by genealogists.

Basic Military Research

An overview of how to research a soldier will be presented, from enlistment to discharge, from medical care to burial. Included are service records, unit records, claims, and pensions.

Finding Aids in the National Archives

General organization of archival materials will be described, and finding aids will be discussed, both those published and those available on site at the National Archives. The presentation will include how to develop a research strategy for locating the records.

Seminar Site

**13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd.
Milwaukie, Oregon**

Situated on the west side of 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 (restaurant to the south). Look for the Milwaukie Elks Lodge sign.

Lunch

No lunch available for those registering after 21 Oct 2012

Buffet lunch in the Elks dining room with payment of \$11 includes pot roast, baby red potatoes, and several salads.

Coffee, hot tea, and cold drinks are included.

Breaks

Snacks and drinks are included with admission and are available during the breaks.

Refund Policy

For cancellations received after 21 October 2012, refunds will be made in the amount of the registration fee less a \$10.00 cancellation fee. Lunch fees are non-refundable if cancelled after 21 October 2012.

Fall Seminar Sign-Up Form

27 October 2012

Members ___ \$43 received by 10/21/12 ___ \$48 received after 10/21/12 ___ \$53 at the door

Non-Members ___ \$48 received by 10/21/12 ___ \$53 received after 10/21/12 ___ \$58 at the door

Lunch ___ \$11 must be received by 10/21/12 Total Enclosed _____

Name _____ Member No. _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Email for confirmation _____

Please make check payable to "Genealogical Forum of Oregon" or "GFO."
Attn: Fall Seminar, GFO, 2505 SE 11th Ave, Ste B18, Portland OR 97202-1061
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Letter From The Editor

You may notice a difference with this issue of The Bulletin - no theme. The three of us, Susan LeBlanc, Carol Surrency and I, Judi Scott, decided to make this a collaborative effort and let everyone write about something of interest to them. So we have a diverse issue for you this time.

Sue investigates the origins of a civil war poem discovered in a collection of family history documents. The poem intrigued her to look for further information on the purported subject, Volney Giffin and his family.

It seems we have a number of wars to commemorate in this decade - the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the War of 1812, and, coming up, in 1914, the centennial of World War I. Carol's article provides a little jump-start in understanding our ancestors who participated in "The War to End All Wars".

I write about Orphan Trains, a topic that has recently come to my attention in a personal way. I discovered that my son had a great-grandmother who was one of the children sent to the Midwest on an orphan train.

We also have two new contributing authors, both GFO members: Kristin Lowe-Bartell and Mike Dalton, with two very different, but equally interesting topics. Leslie Lawson writes about blogging, a new must for genealogists and don't forget Harvey Steele, who always comes through with historical topics for us. Bonnie Randolph's story about Frank Hemsworth is the second place winner of the GFO writing contest. Surely there is something to interest everyone.

As always we appreciate your comments on The Bulletin, and welcome suggestions for future topics and, of course, submissions. You can contact us at gfbulletin@gmail.com.

Judi Scott

Submission Guidelines and Copyright Agreement

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(Contact the editors at gfbulletin@gmail.com.)

Feature Articles

The Ruby M. Harvey Collection and the Poem “Little Giffin”

Susan Olsen LeBlanc, AG

Recently our Family History Center has been cleaning house and I was given a genealogy manuscript that belonged to Ruby Deck, who attended my church. She was born 3 May 1917 in Chattanooga, Tennessee and died 15 September 1998 in Gladstone, Oregon.¹ While I did not know her personally, the members of our church dearly loved her. As a ward consultant I feel an obligation to preserve these materials. This collection was created by Ruby M. Harvey and sent to her niece Ruby Deck. It is a collection of family information, descendants from various lines, letters from families who were responding to a request for family information, pictures, documents, maps, etc. Unfortunately these are all very poor mimeograph copies, some of which are barely readable. There were some family group records created from the information, but this work can all be found on new.familysearch.org. I printed current family group records for reference to the collection.

Ruby Deck's father was Terrell Irwin Deck, born 8 May 1892 in Rock Spring, Walker County, Georgia and died 1 February 1966 in Sandy, Oregon.² Her mother was Lola Jessie Harvey, born 17 January 1893 in Knoxville, Tennessee and died 8 February 1946 in Sandy, Oregon.³ Her only sibling was Terrell Lee Deck, born 11 June 1915 and died 24 January 1927 in Portland, Oregon.⁴ Her brother was twelve when he died, and Ruby never married, so there were no further descendants on this line. Their father did remarry on 30 October 1948 to Reva Birch, who had one daughter Rhea Valoy Birch from a previous marriage. Rhea was married twice, but has no descendants listed.⁵

Ruby Marie Harvey, was born on 6 May 1895 in Knoxville, Tennessee and died 29 December 1974 in Long Beach, California.⁶ She appears to have not married or had any children. Ruby and Lola had one other sibling, Elbert Allen Harvey, born 26 October 1888 in Asheville, North Carolina and died 15 March 1928 in Long Beach, California. Elbert married Margaret Tennessee Giffin on 27 February 1909. They had three children: Kathleen Giffin Harvey Murphy, George William Harvey and Elbert Andrew Harvey. There appears to be at least one family member working on this line and I sent her an email. She responded with keen interest in the genealogy manuscript.⁷

Now that I have given you a rather long explanation about this material, I want to share a serendipity moment that occurred as I read through the collection and found this record. It compelled me to investigate the family of Volney Giffin.

“The following poem was written about Volney Giffin, born 1845 in Knox County, Tennessee. He was the son of Bartlett Giffin and Mrs. Mary J. Giffin. Volney having been born in 1845 was sixteen years of age in 1861, the year he fought in the Civil War. The poem was written by Francis Orrery Ticknor, of Baldwin County, Georgia. Volney Giffin is related to our family through Margaret T. (Giffin) Harvey wife of Elbert Allen Harvey, son of Margaret Catherine (Allen) Harvey, daughter of Jessie Allen, son of William Allen.”

Little Giffin

Out of the focal and foremost fire,
Out of the hospital walls as dire;
Smitten of grapeshot and gangrene,
Eighteenth battle and he sixteen,
Spectre, such as you seldom see,
Little Giffin of Tennessee.

“Take him, and welcome” the surgeons said:
“Little the doctor can help the dead”
So we took him and brought him where
The balm was sweet in the summer air;
And we laid him down on a wholesome bed,
“Utter Lazarus, heel to head.”

And we watched the war with abated breath,
Skeleton Boy against Skeleton Death.
Months of torture, how many such?
Weary weeks of the stick and crutch;
And still a glint of the steel blue eye
Told of a spirit that wouldn't die.

And didn't, Nay more, in death's despite
The crippled skeleton learned to write,
“Dear Mother,” at first, of course; and then
“Dear Captain” inquiring about the men.

Captain's answer: Of eighty and five
Giffin and I are left alive."

Word of gloom, from the war, one day:
Johnson pressed, at the front, they say,
Little Giffin was up and away;
A tear-his first, as he bade goodbye,
Dimmed the glint of his steel blue eye.
"I'll write, if spared." There was news of the fight;
But none of Giffin, he did not write.

I sometimes fancy that, were I King
Of the princely Knights of the Golden Ring,
With the song of the minstrel in mine ear,
And the tender legend that trembles here,
I'd give the best, on his bended knee
The whitest soul of my chivalry,
For Little Giffin of Tennessee.

Was Volney the real Little Giffin of Tennessee and did he die in battle or not?

While the family of Volney Giffin felt he was the Giffin written about in the poem, "Little Giffin" by Francis Orray Ticknor, there is information indicating that he probably was not. In the city where Francis Ticknor lived and died there is a historical marker containing the following:

"TORCH HILL"

"On the summit of the rise to the east is the site of "Torch Hill", home of Dr. Francis Orray Ticknor (1822-74), author of the famed war story, "Little Giffin of Tennessee". Dr. Ticknor was a physician at the Confederate Hospital on Upper Broad St. in 1861-1865.

Giffin, a 16 year old Confederate soldier, was treated at the hospital for serious wounds. Dr. Ticknor took the boy to his home where Mrs. Ticknor nursed him. Before his wounds entirely healed, "Little Giffin" voluntarily took up his rifle and returned to battle. He was never heard of again.

The Creek Indians used "Torch Hill" for signal fires, giving the hill its name."

106-2 GEORGIA HISTORIC MARKER 1989⁸

The Georgia Humanities Council in partnership with the University of Georgia notes that the soldier's name was Isaac Newton Giffin.⁹ So, did the family of Volney Giffin just assume the poem was about their ancestor?

There was an Isaac N. Giffin, born in Tennessee in about 1845, which makes him the possible confederate soldier. Possible listings for him are found in the 1850 Census in Dickson County, TN and 1860 Census in

Montgomery County, TN.¹⁰

Now, back to Volney Giffin and what was discovered about him. For general family information there are two listings in Rootsweb.com family trees that portray a fairly accurate family genealogy. Nothing was found on familysearch.org. in the family trees.

Ancestry.com provided the following records for Volney Giffin. Census records for him for the years 1920, 1910, 1900, 1890, 1880, 1870, 1860 with his mother who had remarried, 1850 with his parents, two brothers John S. and George Washington Lafayette and his sister Celestial.¹¹ His death certificate, clearly lists his parents Bartley Giffin and Ailsey Edington, his birth 22 March 1844 in Tennessee, his death 14 July 1924 in Knoxville and that he was widowed.¹² The marriage certificate was found for Volney Giffin and Sarah J. Anderson married on 1 February 1868 in Knox County, Tennessee.¹³

In the U.S. Southern Claims Commission Master Index, 1871-1880 found at ancestry.com there was a link to fold.3 that has a forty-three page file on two denied claims filed for Bartley Giffin. In his testimony within that file, he notes that he has three sons fighting with the 6th East Tennessee Infantry, John, Volny and Lafayette and three nephews Frank, John and William Kidd. The file contains testimony of family members, friends and relatives. They provide a wealth of family history information. By his own testimony, Bartley was a Union sympathizer during the entire war. His neighbors said he was a "fool hardy Union man"; "in fact he was just as loyal to the Union cause as it was possible for anyone to be."¹⁴

Bartley testifies that he is age 56 and lived here seventeen years. He resides three miles south of Knoxville, he was born in Blount County, Tennessee, and he lived in Knox County since he was a man child. At the commencement of the war he was farming and lived in his home until 29 August 1863 when he left home and went to the state of Illinois. He remained there until October 1863, returning to Knox County, Tennessee. He assisted in piloting Union refugees of East Tennessee to Kentucky and helped his nephew escape the Rebel Army after which the nephew became a Union soldier. He furnished his sons with money and supplies when they left to join the army. Bartley said he was given a permit by the U.S. authorities to sell goods of any and every kind.

In his testimony Bartley claims he was threatened and abused by Rebel soldiers, but they did provide him a pass. Later the Union soldiers camped about three miles away, with some pickets stationed in his field about 100 yards from the house. He claimed that they took a

heifer cow weighing 200 pounds, three or four hogs, and about fifty bushels of corn. There were witnesses stating they had seen the items taken and acknowledging his faithfulness to the Union cause. He was asking for \$142 in the first claim and \$125 in the second, but both were denied.

These are the findings of the research into establishing who was probably the real Little Giffin of Tennessee. Here are the facts discovered from additional online resources.

The American Civil War Soldiers on ancestry.com list includes:

George Giffin, Tennessee Union, Corporal
 John Giffin, Tennessee Union, Private
 Volney Giffin, Tennessee Union, Private
 William Giffin, Tennessee Union, Corporal

All served in Company A, 6th Infantry Regiment, Tennessee, except William who enlisted in Company C. There is a regimental history of Company A, including some of the battles fought, found within this collection at ancestry.com.¹⁵

George is George Washington Lafayette Giffin, and William Giffin is probably related to the three brothers. Family information states that John Giffin died in the war, but Volney and Lafayette returned, married and raised families in Tennessee. They both later filed for pensions, as did their sister Celestial, who married John M. Ford a Civil War soldier.

Their Compiled Service Records provide additional information about all three brothers.

By examining the cards one can establish dates of service, where they served, injuries, court martial and various other details of their lives. The brother's files contain the following:

John T or L or T John Giffin has twenty-eight cards. He was a private, Co. A, 6th Regiment, East Tennessee Infantry, aged 20 years, enrolled April 24, 1862 in Boston, Kentucky, term three years. His cards date from March 8, 1862 to August 1864, when there is a gap until November and December 1864. On November 27, 1862 he was a Principal Musician. He mustered out on June 9, 1865, last paid February 29, 1864. For his clothing account of June 30, 1863 he received \$70.64 and was due a bounty of \$100. He is on the muster out roll of April 27, 1865, last paid 29 February 1865, for clothing account June 30, 1863 he received \$65.84. On the cards for March and November it states that he was in arrest or confinement since July 16, 1864.

On card #20 it states: At muster out of Company was held to service by sentence of a General Court

Martial for violation of the 7th and 9th Articles of War is to forfeit two months pay and perform three months of labor. Mustered out by reason of expiration of service having performed three months labor.

On Card #22 it states: By sentence of a General Court Martial not mustered out for violation of the 7th and 9th Acts of War is to forfeit two months pay and perform three months labor is at Wilmington, North Carolina by order of...

On Card #23 it states: J. L. Griffin Prisoner of War Records, Pv. Co. A 6th Regiment of Tennessee Infantry, three enclosures POW.

On Card #24 it states: Captured at Knox Co., Tennessee April 1, 1863. Confined at Richmond, Virginia, May 14, 1863. Paroled at City Point, Virginia, May 15, 1863, Reported to Camp Parole, Maryland May 18, 1863, Sent from CP, Maryland to CCC May 19, 1863.

On Card #27 is a record of the clothing he received in Baltimore on May 15, 1865, a flannel coat or blouse for \$4.80.

The final card #28 is a note about his POW record, where he is sent from Knoxville, Tenn. to Richmond, VA for exchange May 12, 1863, this being a record from Camp Parole, Maryland.¹⁶

So, it would appear John did not die in the war. Something may have happened to him while under Court Martial, which it seems he served after returning from being released as a POW.

Lafayette Giffin has one card under that name and under George W. L. he has nineteen cards. The first card provides a description of him at the time of enlistment. He served in Co. A, 6th Regiment, East Tennessee Infantry, aged 18 years, height 5' 5", complexion dark, eyes black, hair dark, born in Knox Co., Tennessee, occupation farmer. Enlisted September 21, 1862 in Knox Co., Tennessee, term three years. His cards date from September 1862 to December 1864.

On Card #15 he is listed as a P Corporal in Co. A, 6th Regiment, East Tennessee Infantry, and he is aged 18 years. Detachment Muster Roll in Nashville, Tennessee June 12, 1865. Last paid to December 31, 1864, clothing account of October 31, 1863 he received \$74.54 and was due a bounty of \$100.

On Card #16 Pvt. Corporal returns shows, Jan. 1863 Gain Sep. 21, 1862, Knox Co., Tenn., enlisted in Regt., April 1863 absent on duty, Carthage, Tenn., June 1865, Loss, Discharged June 12, 1865, Nashville, by reason of telegraphic instruction from War Dept. AGO.¹⁷

Volney Giffin has twenty-one cards.

Card #17 provides a description of him at the time of enlistment. He served in Co. A, 6th Regiment,

East Tennessee Infantry, aged 19 years, height 5'7", complexion light, eyes blue, hair light, born in Knox Co., Tennessee, occupation farmer. Enlisted September 21, 1862 in Knox Co., Tennessee, term three years. His cards date from September 1862 to December 1864. There is a gap in July and August of 1863.

Then on Card #13, July to August 31, 1864 he is listed as absent, wounded July 22, 1864 near Atlanta, Georgia and that the next card is December 1864.

On card #14, November to December 1864 he is listed as absent, in Hospital Knoxville, Tennessee from a wound received July 22, 1864 near Atlanta, Georgia. His name was not born on CMO Roll. Next roll on file Muster Out.

Card #15 details his Muster Out, List of Returns:

April 1863 - Absent, on duty, Carthage, Tenn.

February 1864 - Absent, sick at Knoxville, February 24 by authority of Regt. Surgeon.

May 1864 - Absent, left sick on March from Resaca, Georgia, May 23, 1864.

July to September 1864 - Absent, sick, wounded near Atlanta, Georgia July 22, in the late Campaign

October 1864, December 1864 and January 1865 - Absent, sick in hospital Knoxville, Tenn. from wound recd. in action.

June 1865 - Soldier Discharged June 12, 1865, Nashville by reason of telegraphic instructions from War Dept. AGO.

Card #16 Detachment Muster Roll in Nashville, Tennessee June 12, 1865. Last paid to February 29, 1864, clothing account of October 31, 1863 he received \$44.19 and was due a bounty of \$100.

Card #18 the Hospital Muster Roll at Holston U.S.A. General Hospital, Knoxville, Tenn. July 4 to Aug 31, 1864. Attached to Hospital August 8, 1864, Patient, Present, Ward 8. Cards #20-21 are Casualty Sheets of July 2 to August 13, 1864, from report of wounded of 2nd Division and 23rd Corps. Volney Giffin is wounded by a ball to the left knee. He shows on the Hospital list from July 4, 1864 to December 1864. He mustered out on June 12, 1865.¹⁸

Conclusion

From the overall picture of Volney's injury on 22 July 1864 and his hospital records indicating he was in the hospital in Knoxville by 8 August 1864, we can determine that he was moved rather quickly from Georgia back to Tennessee after the injury. He did spend months in the hospital recovering from August to December, but we might wonder where he was from December to his mustering out on 12 June 1864. It is very probable that he remained in the hospital, but those records were not

created. Being so close to his home and family it seems that they would have had some contact.

Francis Orray Ticknor was a confederate sympathizer, a physician working in a Confederate Hospital and living in Torch Hill, Columbus, Muscogee, Georgia. F. O. Ticknor appears in the Georgia, Civil War Muster Rolls, 1860-1864 at ancestry.com.¹⁹ Serving in Muscogee County, he mustered in on 2 Jul 1864, with Captain S.J. Pemberton Captain, Apothecary, Company of Calvary, under Major G. O. Dawson. It would seem unlikely Dr. Ticknor and Volney Griffin ever crossed paths. In other research I have seen where Confederate Doctors did treat Union soldiers, but if this was the case the treatment would have been brief due to Volney's entrance into the hospital in Knoxville seventeen days after his injury.

As to the soldier Isaac Newton Giffin, there are two possible matches in the census records, but nothing was found in the Confederate Military records. In 1850 Census there is an Isaac N. Giffin, age 5, living with his father Isaac Giffin, in Middle District, Dickson, Tennessee. In the 1860 Census there is a J. N. Giffin age 13 living with his father Isaac Giffin in North and East of Cumberland River, Montgomery, Tennessee.²⁰ The Confederate Military records are not complete, but with further research one might locate medical records of that time period.

So, my conclusion is that Volney Giffin is probably not the subject of the poem "Little Giffin." He was of similar appearance and age, and received an injury in about the same time period that required extensive medical attention. For both young men, one Confederate and the other Union, I found no record showing either directly related to the poem. This was an amazing project and after working on the research of Ruby Marie Harvey, I have determined that she is related to the family of Volney Giffin through Holsten Giffin another son of Bartley Giffin. The best part of the project was making contact with relatives of Ruby M. Harvey who are very interested in the manuscript collection and I can now pass it on to them.

(Endnotes)

1 Manuscript in mimeograph format from Ruby M. Harvey, 546 Pine Apt. 209, Long Beach, California 90812, sent to Ruby Deck of Gladstone, Oregon. At the time she produced this manuscript she lived at 1059 Lime Ave. in Long Beach, printed about 1961. Last correspondence dated April 1961, most from the 1950s. Families include Harvey, Mobley, Allen, Kuykendall, Griffin, Jordan, Alcock and Murphy.

"Oregon, Death Index, 1898-2008," Ruby Catherine Deck, Age:81, Birth Date:3 May 1917, Death Date: 21 Sep 1998, Death Place: Clackamas, Oregon, Certificate:98-21002.

Ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012.

Social Security Death Index Ruby C. Deck, Last Residence: 97027, Gladstone, Clackamas, Oregon, United States of America, Born: 3 May 1917, Died: 15 Sep 1998, State (Year) SSN issued: Oregon (1973-1977). Ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012.

2 "Oregon, Death Index, 1903-1998," Terrell I Deck, 1966, Event Death, Event Date: 15 Feb 1966, Event Place: Clackamas, Oregon, Spouse: Reva Deck, Certificate Number: 1704. familysearch.org accessed 4 July 2012.

3 "Oregon, Death Index, 1903-1998," Lola H Deck, Event: Death, Event Date: 08 Feb 1946, Event Place: Clackamas, Oregon, Certificate Number: 728. familysearch.org accessed 4 July 2012.

4 "Oregon, Death Index, 1903-1998," Terrell Lee Deck, 1927, Event: Death, Event Date: 24 Jan 1927, Event Place: Portland, Oregon, Certificate Number: 243. familysearch.org accessed 4 July 2012,

5 Family Group Record of Terrell Irwin Deck and Reva Birch, with one child Rhea Valloy Deck. new.familysearch.org accessed July 4, 2012.

6 California Death Index, 1940-1997 <<http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5180&enc=1>>

Name: Ruby M Harvey, Sex: Female, Birth Date: 6 May 1895, Birthplace: Tennessee, Death Date: 29 Dec 1974, Death Place: Los Angeles. Ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012.

7 Family Group Record of Elbert Allen Harvey and Margaret Tennessee Giffin, with three children Kathleen Giffin, George William and Elbert Andrew. new.familysearch.org accessed July 4, 2012.

8 William Ticknor, Massachusetts genealogy by Joe Ticknor Breeze. Brief information on Francis Orray Ticknor. <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~tignor/william2.htm>, accessed July 4, 2012. Picture of marker on GeorgiaInfo, Library of Georgia website: <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/gahistmarkers/torchhillhistmarker.htm>, accessed July 4, 2012.

9 Information on name of soldier Isaac Newton Giffin found in Georgia Encyclopedia.

<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-477>, accessed July 4, 2012.

10 1850 US Census, Isaac Giffin born about 1845 in Tennessee, living with father Isaac Giffin at Middle District, Dickson, Tennessee. Roll: M432_876; Page: 101B; Image: 334, ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012.

1860 US Census, J. N. Giffin born about 1847 in Tennessee, living with father Isaac Giffin at North and East of Cumberland River, Montgomery, Tennessee. Roll: M653_1266; Page: 329; Image: 8; Family History Library Film: 805266. ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012.

11 1920 US Census, Volney Giffin, born about 1845 in Tennessee, living with wife Sallie in Knoxville Ward 26, Knox, Tennessee. Roll: T625_1750; Page: 27A; Enumeration District: 117; Image: 506. ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012.

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Roll: 1265; Family History Film: 1255265; Page: 335C; Enumeration District: 157. ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012. 1870 US Census Volney Giffin, born about 1844 in Tennessee, living with wife Sally and one child and a housekeeper who is a possible sister of his wife. Place: District 14, Knox, Tennessee; Roll: M593_1541; Page: 263A; Image: 361; Family History Library Film: 553040. ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012. 1860 US Census Noah Typtor, living with his mother Alcy and his stepfather Jacob Typtor and two siblings. This is a poorly enumerated record, but according to family information this is probably him. His father appears to be enumerated as Rosley Griffin age 40, a farmer with his second wife Clara Griffin. 28 Place: District 14, Knox, Tennessee; Roll: M653_1259; Page: 272; Image: 557; Family History Library Film: 805259. ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012. 1850 US Census 1850 Volney Griffin, born about 1845 Tennessee, living with Bartlett and Aley J Griffin and brothers John S. and Washington L. and sister Celestial in Subdivision 15, Knox, Tennessee. Roll: M432_886; Page: 138A; Image: 277. ancestry.com accessed July 4, 2012.

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Placing Out The Story of America's Orphan Train Children

Judith Beaman Scott

Gertrude Pansy Zinn was born, according to family members, on 7 August 1888.¹ She reportedly told family members that she was sent to Nebraska on an "orphan train" and was subsequently adopted by Hulda and George Zinn of Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1892 or 1893.² She told her family she located her birth mother in Bellefontaine, Ohio, and had travelled to Ohio to visit her. In a family account written by her grandson, Michael Taylor, he reports that this information, along with her birth name, was recorded in her Bible, but the location of the Bible at the time of the report was unknown.³

Her story is a compelling mystery for the family to unravel. Even more, it is the story of an estimated 250,000 children in the United States, who were taken off the streets or from their families, from the 1850s to the 1930s and sent "west"⁴ to be placed out, a social experiment devised by Charles Loring Brace.

Child Welfare in the 19th Century

A discussion of placing out has to begin with the attitudes of the day. At the time that much of the east was shifting from an agrarian society to an industrialized one, views about children were evolving and society's changing ideals of childhood for the upper and lower classes did not conform. The image of children was changing from being regarded as simply small adults to John Locke's concept of "tabula rasa"; children born as blank slates whose environment would shape their future. During this time, poor homeless waifs selling matches or newspapers on street corners became popular in the literature of the day. Eventually, even Horatio Alger wrote about Julius who traveled west on an orphan train. Julius told his friends he is "goin' on to a farm, or into a store and grow up respectable".⁵ After an adventurous train journey to Brookville with 51 other children Julius is placed in a happy home with the well-to-do Taylor



Children's Aid Society

family.

The growing poverty and waves of immigrants in eastern cities resulted in huge numbers of children living in abject poverty. Without the cushion of family and friends to help, an accident at work, illness, a pregnancy or death pushed a family over the fine line between working class and destitution. In 1848 it was estimated that 30,000 homeless children roamed the streets of New York City, a number that continued to grow.⁶ In 1890, 40% of all deaths in New York City were infants and children.

Children were frequently put in jail for minor offenses like selling newspapers without a license.⁷

As the middle class emerged so did various social reform groups. A growing school of thought believed that fresh air was important for children; another was a kindergarten movement for the poor. The center of this new way of thinking was New York City where thousands of children roamed the streets, many of them recent immigrants.⁸ In 1825 there were four orphan asylums in the state of New York; by 1860 there were sixty. They were not just for orphans, they were for rescued children: orphans, half-orphans, those given up or taken from their parents and the destitute. Most of these were private institutions run by various charitable organizations.

Charles Loring Brace

Into this scenario came Charles Loring Brace, a social reformer who devoted his life to his version of child welfare. Brace came to New York to study theology and was horrified by the poverty and the condition of the children who lived in the slums and on the streets. He, with other like-minded reformers, founded the Children's Aid Society in 1853 to assist the large number of children in need in New York, to find jobs and homes for them. Brace believed that children could be productive citizens if they could be taken from the environment of poverty and squalor. If raised correctly they would benefit society

instead of becoming the next generation of parasites.⁹

In theory, placing out served several purposes: it removed vagrants from the streets of the cities, so the public would not have to deal with them, or even think about them; it gave farmers and businessmen in the west the free or cheap labor it needed; it provided the Christian guidance needed for a productive life; and provided the necessary healthy living circumstances, such as fresh air and good food. The Children's Aid Society did not house children—they were placed in various other available asylums, orphanages and schools until a more permanent solution could be found.

The Beginning

In 1853 Brace placed newspaper ads asking for response from anyone who had a job or a home for an orphan or vagrant child.¹⁰ Most of the responses were people offering jobs. In the first year 207 children were placed; the next year 863, which included the first 46 orphan train riders.¹¹ By 1864 the Children's Aid Society was placing over 1,000 children a year, and by the last quarter of the century the average was 3,000-4,000 each year.¹² Victor Remmer, a CAS archivist and former director estimates the CAS alone placed between 105,000 and 150,000 children between 1853 and early 1930s.¹³

The first official group of "western immigrants" left New York bound for Dowagiac, Michigan in 1853 by river boat.¹⁴ There are no records to indicate why this location was chosen. Existing reports by the Children's Aid Society agent E.P. Smith tell the story of this first group. He reported that the ages of the children ranged from 6 to 15 and that 36 of them were "orphans". One child, called Liverpool after his place of birth, was supposedly a vagrant orphan who shipped out as a cabin boy to New York where he lived on the streets. He was taken off the streets and included in the group, with no effort to verify his story.¹⁵

The children attracted attention from the passengers and crew, and one of them was handed over to a woman who said she thought her sister would like to take him in. A merchant traveling on the boat took Liverpool with him. There was no attempt made to check on either of these placements.¹⁶ At Albany the group boarded a train after taking in nine children who made it to the boat too late and one boy off the streets who wanted to be included. He said his street name was Smack. Smiths wrote,

We worked our way through the Babel of at least one thousand Germans, Irish, Italians and Norwegians, with whom nothing goes right. [He had been promised a car for the children; instead they were pushed into a freight car already full of the immigrants.]

"Some standing, a part sitting in laps, and some on the floor under the benches—crowded to suffocation in a freight-car without windows ... no ventilation except through the sliding door where the little chaps are in constant danger of falling through. There were scenes that afternoon and night which it would not do to reveal.

We were in Buffalo nine hours ... but we were all on board the boat in season. We went down to our place, the steerage cabin ... The emigrants spent the night washing, smoking, drinking, singing, sleep, and licentiousness. It was the last night in the freight-car repeated, with the addition of a touch of sea-sickness, and of the stamping, neighing, and bleating of a hundred horses and sheep over our heads, and the effluvia of their filth pouring through the open gangway.¹⁷

Not included in these first hand accounts of the train, or in most records pertaining to the trains, is any adverse reaction from the children. With this many children from varied backgrounds there must have been strong emotional reactions but the accounts always stress the happiness of the children and their thankfulness for a new life, their joy of seeing farm animals and crops growing in rural fields.

Upon their arrival in Dowagiac, they gathered at the local meeting house, which was filled with a crowd of spectators. The children were tired and dirty from their trip. As they sat looking at the crowd of strangers, Smith was telling the group about the Children's Aid Society. He extolled the virtues of taking a child; these children have the same needs and the same capabilities as your own children, he told them. They were expected to provide the children with food and clothing, give them a so-called "common" education and \$100.00 when they reached twenty-one. In return, the boys were able workers who could learn any trade or type of work and the girls could do any kind of housework.

The audience surged forward to examine the children, some sympathetic at the children's plight, others poking at muscles or looking into their mouths in the same way they examined horses. The children were handed out the next morning. Supposedly the applicants were screened locally, but this is questionable, as Smith himself handed out children to whoever asked. It was common for agents to question prospective parents, look at their clothes, their bearing, ask questions about property, church attendance, profession etc., and if their

answers were acceptable they were approved. On the first day fifteen children were taken, then twenty-two more in the next three days.

All except eight of this group, the youngest ones, were placed in the town. Smith reported "Reverend Mr. O. took several children into his own home", several of the children were bound to trades, and "Most of the children insisted on being farmers". Two brothers were placed on neighboring farms, a lone Jewish boy went with a doctor, a little girl named Meg was adopted by a wealthy Christian farmer, and Smack "found a good home in a Quaker settlement".¹⁸ This was almost all the information ever known about this group of children.

Smith took the left over nine children, the youngest ones, to Chicago and put them on a train, by themselves, to Iowa City two hundred miles west, to Reverend C.C. Townsend the western representative for the CAS. Townsend placed hundreds of children in Iowa and neighboring states and did not know the fate of many of them. His reports often stated "doing well" when reporting about the children, even when it was known they were not.¹⁹ Smith immediately took a train back to New York, calling the first emigrant train a success although the fate of most of the children was unknown.²⁰ At the end of Smith's report about this first venture he concluded "On the whole, the first experiment of sending children West is a very happy one."²¹

The Process:

The Children's Aid Society placed children from numerous institutions throughout New York. Typically, as the system evolved, a worker would visit various institutions and pick out the "best children", those they felt would be easiest to place. Handicapped children and those of other races and religions were rarely included. They were gathered together, cleaned up and given two sets of clothing. Generally, ten to thirty children in a group were taken to the trains. Boxes of food were packed and loaded for the trip including cans of condensed milk for the babies and youngest children. They traveled by coach, often in a separate car. The children slept on the seats or sometimes on the floor.²²

There was usually advanced notice and advertising for the children's arrival. Local committees were supposed to screen applicants, but apathy and bribery often complicated the screening process. The children were cleaned up, their clothes changed, and they were taken to a large meeting place, preferably with a stage and put on display.

An article in *Harper's Weekly* described it this way:

On a given day in New York the ragged and dirty little ones are gathered to a central

office from the streets and lanes, from the industrial schools and lodging-houses of the society, are cleaned and dressed, and sent away, under charge of an experienced agent, to seek a new home in the west.

When they arrive at the village a great public meeting is held, and a committee of citizens formed to decide on the applications. Farmers come in from 20 to 25 miles round looking for the 'model boy' who shall do the light work of the farm and aid the wife in her endless household labor; childless mothers seek for children that shall replace those that are lost; housekeepers look for girls to train up; mechanics seek for boys for their trades; and kind-hearted men, with comfortable homes and plenty of children, think it is their duty to do something for the orphans who have no fair chance in the great city.

Thus in a few hours the little colony is placed in comfortable homes. Subsequently, if changes should be necessitated, the committee replaces the children, or the agent revisits the village, while a steady correspondence is kept up by the central office with the employers. In this way something like 25,000 boys and girls have been placed in country homes during the past 20 years. Nearly 3000 a year are now sent forth by the society. Great numbers of these children have acquired property, or have grown up to positions of influence and respectability.²³

The first waves of children were sent as workers, not as adoptees. Many of the children sent by other agencies were indentured, a time honored custom which Brace did not believe in. He did not endorse legal adoption either, probably because many of the children were not orphans. Over time the promotion of the children changed from workers to that of children to be included in the household and raised in the family.

As the country grew and the railroad expanded, the children were sent farther away from the eastern states. The CAS placed an average of 2,500 children each year and by the 1870s numerous other agencies implemented their own programs, including Five Point Mission, New York Juvenile Asylum, New York Foundling Hospital, and the New England Home for Little Wanderers in Boston. Eventually other cities followed suit, as well as several countries in Europe: Germany, Norway, Sweden and England. As states to the west were settled and cities

grew, with the accompanying problems of poverty and homelessness, they too began sending their children further west.

Their Stories

Efforts have been made to document and preserve the stories of the orphan train riders. Many have been published and there is a PBS documentary, *The Orphan Trains*, about the children.

Ruth: When Agnes Anderson was two her father deserted the family: a young wife, an immigrant from Norway who spoke very little English, and two daughters, Ruth and infant Evelyn. When Ruth was three her mother put her in an orphanage; she was working as a housekeeper and could keep the baby she was nursing but not a toddler. Life was bleak for Ruth in the orphanage. When she was four she saw her mother for the last time. Her mother was ill so they were not allowed to touch.

In 1917, at age five, she was put on an orphan train with forty children. Clara Comstock, a CAS agent, accompanied the children. Ruth reported that all they had to eat was mustard sandwiches; it was that or nothing. The train stopped at several destinations, with no explanation about why people were looking over the children. Ruth was not one of the early ones chosen. In Forest City, Iowa, however, two couples wanted her. Miss Comstock delivered Ruth to a home, and the tired, hungry, frightened child began to cry. "That woman shook me hard, trying to get me to stop crying. I was frightened, I could not stop, so she spanked me and then slapped me. ... So she put me in the cellar and locked the door. ... The next thing I remember is waking up the following morning on her kitchen floor."²⁴

Fortunately for Ruth, Miss Comstock came by the next day to check on her. After hearing her account she placed Ruth with the Jenson family, who provided a loving home for her. Ruth was teased and ridiculed for being an orphan when she started school, so she learned to keep to herself. She met and married Orville Hickok, had two children and was happily married for sixty years. After the death of her adoptive parents Ruth began to search for her sister, with no success. Records she obtained from various agencies did provide some information about her early years.²⁵

Clara Comstock was a much beloved agent of the CAS who seemed to have taken care with the children she placed, and made every effort to see to their welfare. Many of the children she placed stayed in contact with her throughout their lives.

An account from a CAS annual reports tells the story of another family:

Little N., with three brothers and an

elder sister, was brought to our office by her father to get homes for all of them, the mother being a miserable drunken creature, who would pawn and sell everything for rum. N., when we got her (being a little over a year old), was much bruised from the falls she had received while with her mother. The father, a respectable mechanic, fearing that the evil course of the mother would set his children too bad an example, thought it expedient to remove them to Western homes.

All the children have excellent homes.²⁶

John Brady: John left his home at age seven; his mother was dead and his father drank and beat him. He was found by the police and put in an orphanage. He was sent to Noblesville, Indiana, with a group of 27 children. "It was the most motely [sic] crowd of youngsters I ever did see" said Judge John Green. "I decided to take John Brady home with me because I considered him the homeliest, toughest, most uncompromising boy in the whole lot. I had a curious desire to see what could be made of such a specimen of humanity."

John Green Brady went on to graduate from Yale and Union Theological Seminary and become a three-term Governor of Alaska.²⁷

Gertrude Pansy Zinn

The details of Gertrude's early life have not yet been discovered. All census records located for her indicate Ohio as her birthplace. The Kansas state census of 1895 enumerates George Zinn, age 32 born in Illinois (working for the railroad) and coming to Kansas from Illinois; M., age 32, born in Pennsylvania and coming to Kansas from Illinois; and Gertrude, age seven, born in Ohio and coming to Kansas from Ohio.²⁸ Gertrude is with her adoptive parents, George Zinn and his wife Mary in 1900, where she is identified as Gertrude Bowers, age 12, a guest in the home, born in Ohio²⁹ which certainly supports, at least, part of the story. A later Kansas census has Gertrude with her husband Allen McCoy and five children. Gertrude is listed as Allen's wife, age 42, married at 18 and born in Ohio and her parents born in Illinois.³⁰

There were orphan trains both to and from Ohio, although no information about a train from Bellefontaine has been located. A search for records of orphanages and other agencies of the time and place will be made, as well as local newspaper archives. The search for Gertrude will continue.

The End of an Experiment

In 1929 the last orphan train went to Missouri.

Times were changing and laws about children were being implemented. It was deemed better to keep families together. Governments were getting involved with social issues and eventually child labor laws made the children less attractive to those who wanted free labor.

In 1887 Michigan was the first state to have legislation regulating the placement of children within the state and in 1895 a law was passed to control the placement of out of state children. Other states followed suit. These early laws were not for the protection of the children, they were to protect the state. Locals did not want “incorrigible, diseased, insane or criminal children”,³¹ especially when the states were having problems with their own children. There were no laws in place to protect children in the early years; in 1875 it was the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals who stepped in to protect a child taken from a charitable institution and beaten and chained by the couple who took her. But in the first quarter of the 20th century a number of laws regarding children were finally enacted.

The Children’s Aid Society regarded placing out as a means to improve the life of thousands of abused, neglected and homeless children living on the streets of New York City and state that this grand social experiment was the beginning of the foster care system in the United States, that thousands of children were rescued from a life of poverty and abuse and sent to the healthy lifestyle of the Midwest farms. A 1917 report boasted that placed out children included:

A Governor of a State, a Governor of a Territory, two members of Congress, two District Attorneys, two Sheriffs, two Mayors, a Justice of the Supreme Court, four judges, two college professors, a cashier of an insurance company, twenty-four clergymen, eleven High School Principals, two School Superintendents, an Auditor-General of a state, nine members of State Legislatures, two artists, a Senate Clerk, six railroad officials, eighteen journalists, thirty-four bankers, nineteen physicians, thirty-five lawyers, twelve postmasters, three contractors, ninety-seven teachers, four civil engineers, and any number of business and professional men, clerks, mechanics, farmers and their wives, and others who have acquired property and filled positions of trust.³²

The accounts of many of the orphan train riders tell a very different story; of hardships and abuse, of being

servants and farm hands. Likely the truth lies somewhere in the middle. There were many children rescued from intolerable condition that grew up in healthy, even loving circumstances. And there were many children who were overworked, underfed, abused, neglected and even died because they were put on those trains. The measure of success would be an individual one, and as many of the children who survived had no idea they were even on the trains, that measure is a difficult one. Not every child, placement, indenture, or adoption was documented, and the documents that do exist are difficult to access.

Evaluation of the overall program is challenging. By today’s standards it would be an abject failure, but it can’t be judged by today’s standards. Children worked in the 1800s. All members of farming families worked. Lower class children had to help support the family, so placing children on farms to work all day was not a bad thing, but the norm. But did the program help the children it placed? Brace himself was rather ambiguous about his plan, going back and forth between getting children jobs and advocating adoption as the ideal (although the CAS did not recommend legal adoption). In that respect studies show that only a fraction of the children placed (based on sample statistical analysis) remained in the placement. One study indicated that about 20% of the children studied stayed in their placement and had an adoptive type lifestyle, 16 % returned to New York on their own, 11% were retrieved by their families, 24% stayed because they liked their jobs and 56% of the placements ended before the end of the agreed upon term.³³

Was the program a success? Many children found happy homes; many did not. Many became successful; many did not. Even though they endured more than any child should have to endure, experienced things we cannot imagine, one thing seems evident—they were survivors.

(Endnotes)

1 Michael K. Taylor, “The Descendants of Gertrude Pansy Zinn” Date unknown but deaths in 2006 are recorded in the document. PDF copy sent to Judith Scott in 2011 by a family member.

2 Michael K. Taylor, “The Descendants of Gertrude Pansy Zinn. Although Hulda is reported as Gertrude’s mother, a 1908 marriage record was located for George Zinn and Hulda Soderstadt, a widow. Earlier records for the family have the wife listed as “M.”

3 Michael K. Taylor, “The Descendants of Gertrude Pansy Zinn”.

4 Although “west” was used when referring to placements, children were actually placed all over the United States, and some in Canada.

5 Horatio Alger, *Julius the street boy, or, Out West*. (New York: New York Book Company, 1910), 12 “Brandeis University Libraries” (<http://archive.org/details/juliusstreetboy00alge> : accessed August 2012).

6 *The Children's Aid Society*, "The First Hundred Years", 1853 (<http://www.childrensaidsociety.org/about/history/history-firsts> : accessed 8 June 2012).

7 Stephen O'Connor, *Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children he Saved and Failed* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001), xiv.

8 Jeanne Munn Bracken, editor, *Orphan Trains: Leaving the Cities Behind*, (Carlisle, Mass: Discovery Enterprises, 1997), 6.

9 Marilyn Irvin Holt, *Orphan Trains-Placing Out in America*, (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1992), 26.

10 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 101.

11 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 101.

12 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 103.

13 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 149.

14 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 105.

15 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 108.

16 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 108.

17 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 110-111.

18 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 114.

19 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, 114.

20 O'Connor, *Orphan Trains*, xv-xvi.

21 O'Connor, *Orphan Train*, 115.

22 Bracken, *Orphan Trains: Leaving the Cities Behind*, 21-23.

23 Bracken, *Orphan Trains: Leaving the Cities Behind*, 19. "The Little Laborers of New York City" from *Harpers Weekly Magazine*, vol. 47, Aug 1873, 321-323.

24 Andrea Warren, *We Rode the Orphan Trains*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001), 56-66.

25 Bracken, *Orphan Trains: Leaving the Cities Behind*.

26 Bracken, *Orphan Trains: Leaving the Cities Behind*, 19. Children's Aid Society annual report 1864.

27 Bracken, *Orphan Trains: Leaving the Cities Behind*, 52-53.

28 "Kansas State Census Collection, 1855-1855 1895" Kansas state census, Greenleaf, Washington County. Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed June 2012), from Kansas Territory Census, Microfilm K-1, Kansas State Historical Society.

29 1900 U.S.census, Washinton County, Kansas, ED 135, sheet 2A, dwelling 30, family 30, George Zinn; Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 20 August 2012) citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 503.

30 1930 U.S. census, Kansas, Allen McCoy, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed June 2012), citing NARA microfilm

31 *National Orphan Train Complex*, "State Laws Help Stop Trains", (<http://www.orphantraindepot.com/StateLawsStopTrains.html> : accessed 8 August 2012).

32 Stephen O'Connor, *Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace*: excerpt rom CAS Annual Report, 1917.

33 Holt, *Orphan Trains-Placing Out in America*, 151.

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There are numerous children's books about orphan train children including a series by Arleta Richardson called the *Orphans' Journey*, a series based on a true story.

HOMELESS CHILDREN FIND WELCOME AWAITING THEM

LITTLE FOLKS BROUGHT FROM NEW YORK TO AUBURN

Many More Applications Than There Were Children and Good Homes Were Found For Them—Big Crowd At Opera House.

For the second time within a few months Miss Alice Bogardus, representing the Children's Aid Society of New York, brought a company of homeless children to this city last Friday. There were fifteen children and homes were found for all but three, and they will be placed as soon as those who want them will decide which they will take. The children ranged in age from eighteen months to eleven years and were a bright and active bunch of youngsters and created a lot of interest. It had been announced that Miss Bogardus would have the children at the Macley opera house and when the time arrived the opera house was crowded to capacity even the balcony being thronged. This was the case regardless of the fact that country roads were almost impassable and a large crowd was not expected.

On the occasion of her former visit to this city Miss Bogardus found that there were not nearly enough children to meet the demand and so she announced the second trip. In the meantime the local committee had received a large number of applications. All these applications were considered very carefully and the children were placed only in the homes of worthy people who can and will give them the proper care and training. The children were placed on the stage in full view of the audience and Miss Bogardus explained the object of the society that she represents and what would be expected of people taking the children. The committee selected from the list of applications those to whom children would be given. The names of the children and those who opened their hearts and homes to them are as follows:

Arthur Hec, aged six, to Everett Buckingham.
Hanson Smith, aged six, to Guy Moody.
Wilbur Lane, aged seven, to G. E. Codrington.
Helen Copeland, aged six, to Mrs. Hutchinsson.
Matilda Copeland, aged eleven, to Clarence Cuser, How.
Lawrence Copeland, aged thirteen, to Ray Beaver.
David Hansenwick, aged four, to M. J. Shafer.
Margaret Smith, aged eleven, to George Harmon.
Willie Hughes, aged four, to Frank Ray.
Charles Hill, aged eighteen months, to R. M. Tankersley.

The other children have not been permanently placed in homes but will be as soon as those who desire to take them can decide which they would rather have. In each instance these children have found homes among the best people of the community where they will receive proper care and training. Over twenty years ago Miss Bogardus brought children from New York to this city and they grew into useful and respected men and women and the same opportunities that were given them will now be given the children who have just come into homes in this community.

Nehama County [Nebraska] Herald 5 February 1915
Nebraska State Historical Society

Orphan Train Research

There are numerous difficulties attached to orphan train research.

- Many orphan train riders were too young to remember they had other families and many were never told about it.

“My father was one of the fortunate ones raised in a loving home. He was 30 years old, shortly after his mother’s death, when he found out he was not their natural child. His father refused to discuss it.”¹

- Even if they knew, there was often no information available to them. Record keeping was sporadic at best.

- Often the agencies did not know the child’s background; many were foundlings or picked up off the streets.

- Many placements were just that—there was no legal adoption. Many of the children were indentured, but even that was often just a verbal agreement.

- Children moved from placement to placement and were not tracked, sometimes being sent away by the adults they were placed with, sometimes they ran away.

- Some placed out children refused to acknowledge their situation and many did not tell their families

If you know where the child was placed local newspaper archives and county or city histories might be helpful. The arrival of an orphan train was often big news. Advance notice was given; ads were placed to draw the attention of prospective placements. There were frequent articles after the arrival of the children, sometimes giving the names of the children and their placement. The article might have information about the agency placing the children, and where they came from.

Many of the placements were called adoptions, but it was not necessarily the legal adoption we know today. This sometimes came to light at the death of the parents, when estates were being probated. Examining probate records and land titles is sometimes helpful. Understanding the adoption laws of the place and time are also important, if an adoption is suspected.

The records of the CAS are available through the New York Historical Society. Decisions are made on an individual basis to determine access to restricted files. Unrestricted access to open materials is available to researchers who register as manuscript user. Access to the records of other organizations has varying restrictions and some are closed altogether.

Don’t neglect federal, state and local census records. It is sometimes possible to locate a child if you know the original surname. For example, the 1920 U.S. census for the Goodhue Home in Richmond County, New York, has a long list of children enumerated as inmates.² The birthplace for most of the children is listed as unknown, with U.S. written above. (The Goodhue Home on Staten Island was established by the C.A.S. in 1918 and operated a training program at the Home to prepare girls for foster care and adoption placements.)³

Orphan Train Riders Association

There are several organizations to preserve the story of the children and to assist with research. One such organization is the National Orphan Train Complex. Their mission “is to collect, preserve, interpret, and disseminate knowledge about the orphan trains, and the children and agents who rode them”.⁴ The museum is located in a 1917 Union Pacific Depot in Concordia, Kansas. There is a great deal of information available on their website at

<http://www.orphantraindepot.com/index.html>.

National Orphan Train Complex

300 Washington St.

P.O. Box 322

Concordia, KS 66901

Phone: 785-243-4471

Email: orphantraindepot@gmail.com

Other sites include:

Iowa Orphan train Project

<http://iagenweb.org/iaorphans/>

Louisiana Orphan Train Museum

<http://www.laorphantrain.com/>

Orphan Trains of Kansas

<http://www.kancoll.org/articles/orphans/index.html>

Orphan Trains of Nebraska:

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/topic/trains//Orphan.htm>

(Endnotes)

1 Holt, Orphan Trains—Placing Out in America, 151.

2 1920 U.S. census, Richmond County, New York, Goodhue House, p 12A-12B ED 1552, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 August 2012) citing NARA microfilm T625, roll1238.

3 The Social Welfare History Project, “Children’s Aid Society of New York”, <http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/organizations/childrens-aid-society-of-new-york/>; quoting The Victor Remer Historical Archives of the Children’s Aid Society.

4 Nation Orphan Train Complex website, (<http://www.orphantraindepot.com/>, accessed June 2012



<http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2009/03/20/the-orphan-train/>

World War I The War to End all Wars

Carol Ralston Surrency

An extremely bloody war, World War I saw tremendous loss of life with little ground gained or lost by the countries involved. There were an estimated ten million military deaths and twenty million wounded. It has been said that every household in France lost a loved one. The carnage and destruction has resulted in the creation of the hundreds of World War I memorials now found in towns and villages throughout France.

When this first global conflict, often referred to as the Great War, ended, many hoped that the horror of it all would lead the world to conclude that this was surely “the war to end all wars”. However, that is not what happened.

How it all began

An assassination started the explosion of events. On 28 June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, unpopular heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife, Sophie, were killed by the Black Hand, a Serbian nationalist society, while visiting Sarajevo in the Austro-Hungarian province of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Austria-Hungary waited three weeks before reacting and then issued an insulting ultimatum to Serbia demanding the assassins be brought to justice and challenging Serbia’s sovereignty. Although Serbia agreed to conform to most of the Austro-Hungarian demands, she balked at a couple of minor points, which gave Austria-Hungary the opportunity they wanted to create what they thought would be a limited war with Serbia. This, they felt, would cement their position in the Balkans.¹

Austria-Hungary had used the three week wait to contact their ally, Germany, requesting backup should anything more than a war of words occur. Germany encouraged them to take a strong stance. What followed was truly amazing as we look at it in retrospect. On July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

- Russia, bound by treaty to Serbia, began mobilizing her army, a process expected to take about six weeks.

- Germany, connected by treaty to Austria-Hungary, considered Russia’s mobilization an act of war and declared war on Russia August 1, 1914.

- France, who was bound by treaty to Russia,



Trenches of the 11th Cheshire Regiment at Ovillers-la-Boisselle, on the Somme, July 1916. From the Imperial War Museum.

found itself at war with Germany and Austria-Hungary when Germany declared war on France August 3. Germany immediately headed for France by the shortest possible route, through neutral Belgium.

- Britain, who had a treaty with a “moral obligation” to defend France, declared war on Germany August 4. Britain’s strongest reason for entering the war was the terms of a 75-year old treaty with Belgium and the Belgian King’s appeal for assistance.

- Britain’s colonies and dominions: Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa gave military and financial assistance.

- Japan, who had a military agreement with Great Britain, declared war on Germany on August 23, 1914 and two days later, Austria-Hungary declared war on Japan.

- Italy, with connections to both Germany and Austria-Hungary, refused to become involved, claiming that her treaties obligated Italy only if it was a defensive war. Since both Austria-Hungary and Germany went on the offensive, Italy declared itself neutral until May

1915, when she joined Britain and France against her former allies.

•The United States, initially, maintained a policy of neutrality. However, Germany's submarine attacks on American merchant ships, many of whom were supplying Britain and France with goods, brought the United States into the war on April 6, 1917.²

Scope of the conflict

Like Dominos, one country after another fell into war. Before it was over, almost thirty countries were involved, with seventy million military combatants, sixty million of them European. In addition to the major European powers, the Ottoman Empire, sometimes called the Turkish Empire, played a major role. British, French and German Colonies in Africa and the South Pacific became involved, also.

The two opposing groups facing each other were called the Allies and the Central powers³ The Allies consisted of Russia, France and Britain, later joined by the United States and Italy. The Central Powers included Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey and the Ottoman Empire. By the late 1800's, Germany, who required that every man must serve, had the best trained army on the continent. Britain, as it had for the past hundred years, relied on the power of its Navy.

The Western Front

Germany decided to enact their Schlieffen Plan, created by the chief of the German general staff prior to 1905, for fighting a war on two fronts. Since Russia would take several weeks to mobilize, the bulk of Germany's army could be used for a quick attack on France with the expectation of crushing all resistance quickly. Dubbed the "race to the sea", Germany headed through Belgium and France expecting to meet little resistance. Instead, they found themselves deadlocked and mired down (literally) for three and one-half years. This led to building the famous trenches of World War I where so many young men were slaughtered.

Life in the Trenches

Built six to eight feet wide with dugouts to live in, the trenches were intended to provide protection from artillery fire and snipers. In addition to the front line trenches, there were support trenches several hundred yards in the rear containing additional men and supplies. Reserve trenches another several hundred yards further back provided additional men and supplies in the event that the first was overrun. Communication trenches connected all with the field artillery set up behind the trenches. It is estimated that there were 400 miles of trenches stretching from the coast of Belgium to the Swiss border and more than 6,000 total miles by the

end of 1914. Belgium is often wet, so life in the open air trenches of the Allies often consisted of lice, rats, mud and rotting bodies. A three week rotation planned to put men in the front line trench for a week, the support trench for a week and the reserve trench for the third week. While in the back, they were supposedly able to relax. In reality, they stayed wherever needed as long as was needed. German trenches were more elaborate and included tunnels with electricity, beds and toilets.⁴ An American soldier recounts the following:

All our training...was along the lines of trench warfare...we met the French officers (and) dug a series of trenches. We took up the new method of bayonet fighting. Long lines of straw-stuffed figures ...were set up. The men fixed bayonets and charged them. British instructors, who had arrived shortly after up, stood over us and urged (us) on...The men had to scramble in and out of a series of trenches (to get to the dummies)...There was special instructions to bayonet the man you were chasing through the kidneys...if your bayonet stuck, shoot it out. The British, at that time, were crazy about the bayonet. They knew it was going to win the war.

The French were equally obsessed with the grenade. They knew *it* was going to win the war. So, we also got a full dose of training in hand grenade throwing.⁵

Colonel Fredrick M. Wise,
6th Marine, 2nd Division

Between enemy lines was a no-man's land which could stretch from 30 yards to one mile. This area was covered with barbed -wire, up to ten bolts as much as one hundred feet deep, in front of the front-line trenches.⁶ The only way to overcome the enemy was to race across this barren land. Most were mowed down by machine-gun fire and heavy artillery before they made it across.⁷ If there had been major action in the area, not only did the soldier have to deal with rows of barbed wire, but, also, broken and abandoned military equipment, dead bodies, and water-filled shell holes.

We were running across a field and that is the last I remember. When I came to...I tried to get up, but could not...shells were bursting everywhere. That screeching sound, it is fierce...My combat pack was full of holes, my rifle was broken. I crawled over in

a shell hole. My nose and ears was bleeding, blood ran out of my mouth. I thought I was going to die.⁸

Corporal Joseph E. Rendinall
6th Marines, 2nd Division

Famous for their fighting ability, Scottish troops were called “ladies from hell” by the Germans (referring to the Scottish kilt). In World War I, Scottish pipers led troops out of the trenches during that dash or belly crawl across no man’s land. During the confusion and smoke from the heavy artillery, men often didn’t know which way to go, but they could hear bagpipes above the noise of the big guns. In an interview, an elderly Scottish World War I veteran was asked if he was ever afraid. He responded that, of course he was, but when he heard the pipes, he felt like he could do anything. Over 1,200 Scottish pipers were killed in World War I.

Besides the almost constant shelling and the danger from long range rifle fire, men hunkered down in trenches faced early versions of grenades, and flamethrowers, (an ancient but terrifying technique of spreading fire by launching fuel through a tube). One of the most feared and deadly World War I weapons was poison gas, primarily chlorine, phosgene and mustard gases. First used by the French and later by all the Allies, Germany produced and used almost twice as much as any other nation. Chlorine gas, distinguished by a yellow-green cloud caused coughing and choking as it destroyed the respiratory system. Phosgene caused less choking thus allowing more to be inhaled and, sometimes, didn’t affect men until 48 hours after inhalation. The advantage of mustard gas was that it was basically odorless. After the unpleasant experience of having the wind shift, blowing gas back on their own troops, nations found ways to incorporate gas with their artillery shells.

The U.S. had almost 73,000 casualties and 1,500 deaths from poison gas during its one year participation in the war. The German’s casualties were 200,000 with 9,000 deaths and the Russia experienced 56,000 deaths and 420,000 casualties from gas.⁹

The Eastern Front

While western European nations were at an impasse facing each other in trenches, the war was raging in other areas of the world. Some of the first clashes involved Colonial forces in Africa.¹⁰

With two thirds of her forces focused on Russia and, later Italy, Austria-Hungary struggled after attacking Serbia until Bulgaria joined the fray and finished the conquest. Greece vacillated between the Allies and the Central Powers until 1917, when she, finally joined the

allied forces and joined the war on the Macedonian front.

The Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers in August of 1914, threatening Russia’s territories in the Caucasus region while upsetting Britain’s communication with India via the Suez Canal. India had been providing Britain money, supplies and several million soldiers for the war.

While the Western Front suffered a stalemate, Russia pushed into Poland and Galicia while defending her eastern territories against the Turks. Things did not go well, as Germany’s better trained and supplied forces prevailed. Unhappiness with the war at home led, in part, to the Russian Revolution in 1917.

Advances in Technology Leads to Carnage

World War I caused more destruction than any war except World War II. Coming shortly after the Industrial Revolution, the combatants had the advantage of machinery and transportation (railroads and steamships) unknown in previous wars. Unfortunately, 19th-century warfare confronted with 20th-century technology caused enormous casualties on all sides. In addition to poison gas, soldiers were faced with larger artillery, machine guns, increasingly accurate rifles, tanks, submarines and aircraft.

Germany began a ship building program in 1898 that she hoped could compete with the British Navy. However, the Allies kept the German ports bottled up forcing Germany to rely on her submarines known as U-boats.¹¹ Great Britain relied on imports for war materials and Germany hoped to starve and blockade Britain by U-boat attacks on merchant ships, many coming from the United States. Britain’s answer was to group merchant ships into convoys escorted by Navy vessels which reduced British losses to a trickle.

The first airplane flight occurred only a decade before the war, but airplanes became an important weapon in the fight. Used primarily to observe enemy activity,¹² early spotters shot at each other with handheld weapons, but, eventually, more agile planes were equipped with machine guns and were able to deliver bombs behind trench lines.¹³ Occasionally German-made Zeppelins were used in bombing raids on English cities and observation balloons observed troop movements and directed artillery fire.

All these advances in warfare led to huge numbers of killed and wounded. 250,000 Russians were killed in one battle. On the first day of the battle of the Somme in 1916, Britain suffered almost 60,000 casualties, including more than 19,000 dead. All this occurred in one hour and the territory gained was only seven miles.

During the battle of Verdun, the city was destroyed; the French had 315,000 casualties and the Germans' 280,000.¹⁴

Uncle Sam Enters the War

The Allies desperately wanted the United States to come into the war with its vast resources of materials and, especially, men. The losses were so great that Western Europe was literally running out of fighting men. America, however, had been pursuing a policy of isolationism for a number of years, but two things happened to change that. In 1915, a German U-boat sank the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania, a passenger ship carrying 159 Americans and, in early 1917, Germany sent Mexico a telegram promising portions of the U.S. in exchange for joining the war against the United States. This brought the war home and gave the U.S. a personal reason to join the Allies.¹⁵ On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany.

It was said that the sinking of the Lusitania was the last straw that led us into war; also that the French had their backs right up against the wall and needed our help. Remembering our history and how General Lafayette came to our assistance during those dark days of our first fight for independence, perhaps we had an obligation to our sister republic, the republic of France.¹⁶

Connell Albertine, Massachusetts

Who were the Doughboys?

More than two million American men served in World War I and more than a million shipped overseas.

During the War and, forever after, the most common nickname for the men who served was and is "doughboy". The British first called them "Yanks", and the popular song *Over There* contains the line, "the Yanks are coming...." The media, initially, referred to them as "Sammies", a reference to Uncle Sam, but doughboy is the name that stuck. Where did the term come from? Nobody knows. It is known, however, that it was in use long before World War I and there are a number of theories as to its origins.

Fried flour dumplings were known as doughboys (forerunners of modern day doughnuts) by the British military in the early 1800s and baker's apprentices, in the U.S., were called doughboys during the same time period. Dough-head was slang for stupidity during the 19th century, also, and when it began being used in the U.S. Army, it was not complimentary. Used by cavalrymen as a name for foot soldiers, it can first be documented during the Mexican war of 1846-1847. The

usage continued in the Civil War and among the military on the American Frontier.¹⁷

Among the theories about the name is the suggestion that doughboy comes from rations made with flour or rice baked in a camp fire or shaped around a bayonet to cook. Others think it comes from the appearance of buttons worn on U.S. Infantrymen's coats or from white clay used to polish belts that came to look "doughie" when it rained. An additional theory speculates that marching through the deserts of Northern Mexico created so much dust that infantrymen came to look like adobe buildings, common in the area.

Whatever the origin, a nickname that originally had a derogatory connotation became popular both with the men, who used the term to refer to themselves, and with the American public during World War I.

It was the distinguishing label for all branches of the military in the Great War, although, twenty or thirty years later, in World War II, American soldiers would be known as Yanks and GIs.

Private Ralph L. William with 2nd Engineers, 2nd Division portrays life on the front in this manner;

... Rifles were issued to us along with ammunition belts filled with 30.06 cartridges. Also issued were a first aid packer, canteen, mess kit, bacon kit, and a condiment can with sugar, coffee, salt and pepper. New wool blankets were issued along with a shelter "half" which was one-half of a pup tent as they were called. A canvas back-pack and a rain poncho were included, and each squad was assembled and instructed how to roll blankets into the pack. This turned out to be quite a problem as the blankets had to be folded just the right way or they hung down in the pack. The expression given to this lack of perfection was "sad sack." Unless the blankets were wrapped perfectly, they had to be pulled apart and packed over. Some of the men never did get the hang of wrapping a neat pack and it would fall apart when worn. That called for extra duty, working in the kitchen or cleaning the latrines.¹⁸

Colonel Fredrick Wise of the 59th Infantry, 4th Division described his staff as containing: a French Canadian cornet player, personal orderly; a cow puncher from Wyoming, horse orderly; his cook, George the Greek, a short order cook from Denver; his Chauffer, a mechanic from the Packard factory in Detroit, and

another orderly who was a farm boy from Iowa who tried to volunteer and had been turned down because he was too short. Then he got drafted. Colonel Wise said he was “the maddest man I ever saw whenever the draft was mentioned”.¹⁹

The following story is told by Sergeant Alvin York, with the 328th Infantry, 82nd Division: two farm boys from the south received safety razors and didn't understand them. After trying to shave with his, one said, “Anything the government gives you for nothing ain't never no good,” and with a disgusted look on his face, threw it away. The other tried several times without cutting a hair. He then threw his away, saying, “he never had no use for the Democrats, now they were in power, they had to go and buy razors that wouldn't shave.” The problem – they were trying to shave with the waxed paper on the blades.²⁰

Both the French and the Germans were impressed with the determination and stubborn bravery of the American fighting forces. An intelligence report from German Army Headquarters in 1918 regarding prisoners from the Second Army Infantry Division includes an analysis of the doughboys as being “healthy and vigorous...men...who lack only necessary training to make them redoubtable opponents...regarding military matters, however, they do not show the slightest interest... Most of them have never seen a map...Their idea of the organization of their unit is entirely confused... They regard the war from the point of view of the “big brother” who comes to help his hard-pressed brethren and is therefore welcome everywhere...The majority of the prisoners simply took as a matter of course that they have come to Europe to defend their country.” The report goes on to say, “Only a few of the troops are of pure American origin. The majority is of German, Dutch and Italian parentage, but these semi-Americans, almost all of whom were born in America and never have been in Europe before, fully feel themselves to be true born sons of their country.”²¹

Appreciation of individual courage and compassion appears on both sides. Lieutenant Robert W. Kean of the 15th Field Artillery remembered a touching event after a one battle this way, “The battlefield was very quiet...It was very dark, though the stars were shining bright... An old Frenchman in a tattered blue uniform was walking slowly down the road carrying on his back, towards the dressing station, a wounded American doughboy. Every time I have felt annoyed since then at France, this picture comes to mind and my anger softens.”²²

Popular Culture During the Great War

Songs popular with the soldiers were “There's a

long, long trail a-winding”, “K K K Katy”, “Oh, how I hate to get up in the morning”, “Over there”, and “When Yankee Doodle learned to parlezvous”. The famous *Mademoiselle from Armentieres* may have been a song more popular with the British than the Doughboys.

During the hikes we sang the customary songs of the period until we stopped for want of breath. “Where do we go from here, boys?” “All we do is sign the payroll,” “Madelon,” and “There's a long, long trail a-winding” were a few of the many songs that seemed to shorten the monotonous miles in the cold and rain. During the regular ten minutes' rest every hour, we sought a few drags off a butt, stamped our feet and blew on our hands to keep warm; then off again, stiffer than before.²³

Sergeant Arthur C. Havlin

102nd Machine Gun Battalion, 26th Division

At least twenty-three well known authors were ambulance drivers in the First World War. Assigned to the volunteer ambulance Corps, among them were Ernest Hemmingway, John Dos Passos, E.E. Cummings, Summerset Maugham, Robert Service and Charles Nordhoff, co-author of *Mutiny on the Bounty*. Hemmingway later wrote *A farewell to Arms*, the story of an ambulance driver in Italy during the war and Dos Passos authored several works about his war experience.

Rupert Brooke, a gifted British poet saw little combat, but died of blood poisoning in the Aegean in 1915 at age 28. In a poem called *The Soldier*, he begins,

“If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England.”

Of course, the best known poem of the First World War is *In Flanders Fields*. Written by Canadian, John McCrae, the poem was composed to honor a former student of John's killed by a shell burst in May, 1915. McCrae was not only a poet; he was also a doctor, soldier, author and artist. His young friend was buried in a small cemetery outside McCrae's hospital station and McCrae performed the funeral service in the absence of the chaplain. The next day, as he sat on the back of an ambulance looking at the wild poppies blowing in the breeze, he composed his famous poem with the lines beginning “In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row”. Unsatisfied with it, he tossed it aside, but it was picked up by a fellow officer, who sent

it to newspapers in England where it was published in December, 1915.²⁴

The War Ends

The war continued for another year after the United States became involved. Millions of fresh American troops turned the tide and, soon, Germany retreated while the Allies advanced. The battle of the Marne in 1918, lasting one month, spelled the end for Germany. Ironically, in 1914, Germany's rapid advance through France in an attempt to capture Paris was halted at the Marne River and the war settled into the defensive stalemate that lasted for the next four years, costing millions of lives. The war literally ended where it began with no gain for either side. There were over thirty-seven million military and civilian casualties in World War I. The United States, in the war for only one year, suffered almost one hundred twenty thousand deaths, and over two-hundred thousand wounded.

At the end of 1918, an armistice was signed. The fighting was to end on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, in other words, 11 am on November 11, 1918. That day, known as Armistice Day for many years, is now called Veterans' Day.

Diplomats argued for months before they were able to come up with the Treaty of Versailles, officially ending the war. It was signed on June 2, 1919.

Aftermath

World War I did much to shape the 20th century. It changed the map, especially in Eastern Europe; it introduced mechanized warfare, and Influenced American politics. President Woodrow Wilson, horrified, as was the rest of the world, by the slaughter that took place during the war, looked for a way to prevent its ever happening again. Wilson dreamed up the idea of the League of Nations, a body whose job it would be to maintain peace and to sort out international disputes. The League was formed in 1919. Germany and Russia were not allowed to join, Germany to punish it for its part in the war, and Russia because of its communist government. In spite of President Wilson's involvement in the creation of the League, the United States retreated into isolationism and never joined the League of Nations. Unhappiness with the League and disagreements with the Treaty of Versailles continued to smolder in Europe, until, only twenty years later, World War II broke out. The hope that World War I would be the war to end all wars was gone.

The nurses asked me while I was laying in the hospital, "When was you scared the most?" I said, "All the time." And that's the truth.²⁵

Corporal Joseph Rendinall
6th Marines, 2nd Division.

Researching World War I Ancestors

The United States declared war on Germany in April of 1917 and, on May 18 of that year; the Selective Service Act was passed by Congress authorizing the draft. Responsibility for managing the draft was given to individual states and U.S. Territories who were responsible for setting up draft boards throughout their localities. These boards were responsible for registering men, classifying them, determining medical fitness, determining the order in which they would be called, calling them, and placing them on trains to training centers. The boards also had the power to consider family situations and the need for workers in some industries in the order men were called.²⁶

There were three registrations during World War I. The first was on June 5, 1917, for men between the ages of 21 and 31. The second, on June 5, 1918, registered those had become 21 after June, 1917, with a supplemental on August 24, 1918 for men who attained age 21 after June of that year. The last registration on September 12, 1918 was for men between the ages of 18 through 45. Lotteries determined who was drafted.²⁷

Depending on the date when a potential draftee filled out his form, he would have been asked to answer ten, twelve or twenty questions. These ranged from full name and address to physical description, occupation, date and place of birth, race, citizenship and nearest relative.²⁸

With approximately 24,000,000 registration cards, it is certainly worth a researcher's time to check these records for family members, but it is important to remember that not all who registered, served and, not every man who served, registered.²⁹ It is still important to check for military service records which can be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri by requesting Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records." For more information about records available at NPRC and who may request them, check their web site.

World War I Registration cards are arranged alphabetically by state, county and city, except for Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, which are arranged by divisions and counties. Cards are further arranged alphabetically by name.

National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm, M1509, contains World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards. Other related records held at NARA pertaining to participants in the Great War include: Indians, prisoners, insane, in hospital, late registrants, American Registrants living abroad and

aliens living in the United States. Registrants' appeals are held here, also. Other records can be found in the Military Reference Branch of the National Archives. Look here for information on engineer units and American Expeditionary Forces (World War I) material which ranges from war diaries to casualty lists and prisoner of War records.

Records held by *regional archives* include Classification Lists of Docket Books. These show the process of classification, physical examination, claim for exemption or discharge from the draft, and the appeals process for applicants. Local boards also kept lists of men ordered to report for induction. These contain the name of each individual, the camp and date he was to report and the certification by the camp that he did or did not report.³⁰ A Prologue article (publication of NARA) written in 1998 suggests contacting the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine if a World War I veteran received a pension or other benefits.³¹

On Ancestry.com, you will find World War I draft registration cards, the World War I Mothers Pilgrimage records listing the name of over 10,000 mothers and wives who were able to take a government sponsored trip in 1930 to see their loved one's grave in Europe, the World War I Civilian Draft Registrations for men born between 1873 and 1900 containing information for 1.2 million men, and some Casualty listings from WWI. The Library of Congress also has material for WWI. Check the manuscript Division.

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Second Place Winner 2012 GFO Writing Contest

Frank Hemsworth: A Tenuous Stand for Law and Order in Portland

Bonnie Randolph

When I was six years old, I visited my great-grandmother in her home next to the trolley tracks in Oak Grove, Oregon. An uncle, a few years older than me, climbed onto the kitchen counter when no one was looking and from a cupboard's top shelf showed me a big black pistol and shiny brass knuckles that belonged to "Frank", and then hurriedly put them back before he got caught. The incident made quite an impression on me.

When I was older, I wondered why my great-grandmother, a woman of house dresses, thick ankles and sturdy oxfords, kept weapons that had belonged to her first husband, Frank, who had been dead for over 40 years. Frank Hemsworth left behind a widow and three children, and for some inexplicable reason, brass knuckles and a revolver. No one today has any photos of him or talks about him. When I was in my twenties, I asked my grandma about him but she started crying. Confused by my grandma's reaction, mom told me grandma had idolized her dad, who died in 1924 when she was 14. A big-boned girl, she lied about her age and got a job to help her family. She named her first born Frank because he was the mirror image of her dad. My Uncle Frank was a tall, big man, smart, and larger than life. Loved to cook, loved to entertain.

Frank Wesley Hemsworth, owner of the pistol and brass knuckles, was the youngest of seven children of John Wesley Hemsworth and Mary R. Pettit who married 13 February 1861 in Columbiana County, Ohio.¹ A year later John left to serve for three years in Company C 104th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry² in the Civil War, leaving Mary with a baby daughter.

After the war, they farmed in Howard County Missouri,³ and then ran a boarding house in Chillicothe, Missouri,⁴ where Frank was born on June 21, 1880. They tried farming in Utah in 1883 but gave that up and moved to Oregon in 1887.⁵ They ran a boarding house in Albina on the southeast corner of Chapman and Harding.⁶ Under the 1862 Homestead Act, they applied for 167.17 acres of land in Clatsop County in 1891 but it was marginal land

for farming located at too high an elevation in the Coast Range.⁷ They returned to Portland where John began operating a series of small restaurants and his son, Frank, began to be mentioned in the Oregonian newspaper for breaking the law.

The Hemsworths briefly lived at 206 Russell before moving in 1893 to 268 Sellwood, which today is 36 North Graham, a parking lot for Emanuel Hospital, located between Vancouver Avenue and Williams Avenue. This genteel Victorian,⁸ near the center of the Albina business district at Williams and Russell,⁹ was a tough area in 1893. There were some thirty saloons from the ferry slip to the corner of Russell and Union.¹⁰ This was Frank's neighborhood. A big, tall boy for 13, he was arrested for stealing chickens March 24, 1894. He pleaded not guilty.¹¹ In January 1895, two 17 year olds were arrested for burglarizing a notions store on Russell Street. The store, owned by a cripple, had been raided several times so a trap was set. One boy was captured. The father of the second boy brought his son to the police station the next morning. A third boy was involved who had told



the first two how to get in the store.¹² He happened to be Frank Hemsworth who was held on \$23 bail to appear as a witness for the state,¹³ apparently willing to testify against his two co-conspirators. This time he was turned over to the Boys and Girls Aid Society, who began in 1895 admitting first-time juvenile offenders rather than sending them to the Oregon State Reform School near Salem.^{14 15}

A year later, Frank, described as “a boy 15 years of age, over 6 feet in height”, was arraigned on a charge of highway robbery – of taking \$3.00 from a man and threatening to kill him if he made any resistance.¹⁶ This time the grand jury returned an indictment February 19, 1896. The \$300.00 bond was not posted so he was sent to the county jail.¹⁷

Before Frank turned 18, the U.S. Battleship Maine blew up in Havana harbor February 1898 exacerbating poor relations between Spain and the United States. On April 25, 1898, President McKinley asked Congress to declare war on Spain and informed the Oregon Governor he had to provide a regiment of infantry, consisting of 12 companies. Frank changed his year of birth from 1880 to 1876, making himself 21 and 10 months of age, and enlisted May 2, 1898, in Company L, 2nd Oregon Volunteers Infantry as a private. He was 6’ 2 ¼”, with brown eyes and dark brown hair, and had been employed as a fireman.¹⁸ Businesses closed, flags waved, and bands played when the troops left Portland for San Francisco on board a Southern Pacific train May 16, 1898. The regiment arrived in Manila Bay six weeks later on board the S.S. Australia, a former cattle ship with deplorable accommodations for troops.¹⁹ After a month in the Philippines, Frank was sick in quarters with acute bronchitis. He was confined on disciplinary charges the following spring, March 23 and 24, but released without trial. Frank was discharged per his written request June 12, 1899 in Manila, Philippine Islands, his character noted as excellent.²⁰ When the regiment sailed for home July 14, 1899, Major General H.W. Lawton told the soldiers, “You have nobly earned the reputation of being among the best soldiers of the American Army.”²¹

A civilian again, Frank married Luella A Junior

March 1, 1900 in Vancouver, Washington.²² In June they were farming in Fall Precinct, Wasco County, Oregon²³ but returned to Portland by 1901. They were divorced March 15, 1905.²⁴

In early 1903, Frank became a patrolman for the City of Portland despite his juvenile criminal record. He was required to provide his own uniform, handcuffs, weapons, and other personal equipment. Police officers even provided their own stars – which due to personal preference were of a variety of designs, some large, others small, some worn out, others had sharp points, while not a few had rounded points. It was proposed in 1903 that the department should supply officers with standard police badges.²⁵

Officer Hemsworth would have worn a bobbie helmet similar to the British police helmet, a uniform of dark blue wool pants and a thigh length coat that had four large inside pockets. He probably had a whistle, police call box key, handcuffs (or a twister chain), brass knuckles, and a sap in his pockets. (A sap was a leather covered piece of lead with a handle, capable of doing great damage to those rapped on the head.) He would have carried a short billy club, probably wooden with tassels, although it could have had leather sheathing. The clubs were used to control unruly citizens but also used as a signaling device. Officers could strike lamp posts thereby creating a noise that could carry up to a half mile. This served as an alternative to their police whistle or yelling.²⁶

Handguns were either carried in one of the coat pockets, in a holster under the coat or in a re-enforced back pants pocket.²⁷ In 1895 the police adopted the plan that all officers should carry the same type of pistol and be given “regular target practice as to become entirely efficient in the use of weapons when occasion requires.”²⁸ The Smith and Wesson .38 Police Special became the standard for most police departments, Portland included.

Orders were issued in 1903 that patrolmen were not to accept presents, not even cigars, no more “crooking the elbow” from the back doors of saloons, and no talking while on duty except on subjects pertaining to police work. Already there were protests over the white



Billy clubs:Portland Police Museum



Handcuffs & Twister Chains

gloves they were required to wear. They were not to eat meals in restaurants either. The Chief of Police was quoted as saying, "The business of a patrolman was to be on his beat – not in some restaurant."²⁹ Policemen, in turn, claimed they couldn't live on \$75.00 a month and get the required new 1903 winter uniforms costing \$40.00.³⁰ Portland's 50 patrolmen were paid less in 1903 than they received in 1889 when the city's population was one-half that of 1903.³¹

Portland's population during the period 1900-1910 increased by 129 percent – the third highest growth rate in the country.³² Citizens complained Portland was wide open to hobos, petty thieves, thugs, mischievous idlers, hold-up men, and murderers.³³ Police led raids spasmodically on houses of prostitution and gambling dens but support was faint from Portland business leaders who secretly owned the buildings and were realizing substantial profits.

Local newspapers kept the public informed of crime fighting efforts by Portland's police. One night Patrolman Hemsworth had an exciting chase after three men attempted to enter a basement. The three had been prowling about the area so he had been keeping a watch on them but when other matters engaged his attention, the three men tried to enter the house. They took off when they saw him coming down the street, but had too much of a head start and Hemsworth could not catch them.³⁴

While patrolling their beat around 6 am, August 7, 1903, Patrolman Hemsworth and another patrolman saw several people enter an opium den on Second Street near Oak. They caught two men in the raid and took them to the police station, (which was about 60 feet away), but returned, convinced there were more people still inside. They broke down the back door and arrested two men and a woman. One of them, Tommy Ryan, ex-prizefighter, had never been arrested before owing to his fondness for running away. So once he reached the street, Ryan, true to form, took to his heels. Hemsworth, "a splendid marksman, being a Second Oregon Veteran and official interpreter to the late General Lawton while in the Philippines", warned Ryan to stop, fired into the air, and when Ryan didn't stop, shot Ryan in the calf of his left leg.³⁵ Ryan was incensed over getting shot and threatened to sue Hemsworth for \$1000 in damages August 12.³⁶ Hemsworth refused to testify against Ryan, and in turn, Ryan dropped his law suit. It was a decision that would haunt Frank years later.

Unusual dangers faced police in 1903. A big rattlesnake used as advertisement in the window of a drug store at 67 North Third Street, escaped during the

night of September 19 by crawling over the transom. Officer Hemsworth, "over six feet tall and strong in proportion" dodged the snake's well-aimed blows and finally got the snake in a box that was nailed shut and delivered to the police station. The fangs had been removed,³⁷ but Frank didn't know that as he bravely tried to save the public from a snake bite. By Halloween of that year, all 50 patrolmen planned to guard the "city's gates and woodpiles" from gangs of young hoodlums.³⁸

Frank's short ten-month career as a police officer came to a crashing halt when he was suspended for violating orders by going into saloons and restaurants while on duty without reporting to the captain of police. He was accused of going into different saloons for a few minutes up to an hour November, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 23. Specifically, on November 16, he went into an oyster-house and remained there for 18 minutes with his helmet off. On November 21 he went into an oyster-house and stayed there for 15 minutes. On November 22, he went into an oyster-house and ate a meal in 12 minutes. He also was reported as talking with a woman on one occasion, two women on another, and three on another whose characters were not above reproach.³⁹

His suspension was front page news. Newspapers speculated that Hemsworth was in possession of a good deal of information which would cause certain police officials and others an abundance of trouble and annoyance. He had been on the north end beat for months and in a position to see and hear a great deal. The Police Commissioner assured Hemsworth he would be given a fair trial but gave strict order for him not to talk. Rumors flew. Hemsworth likely knew about a prisoner robbed of \$5.00 by a policeman and it was possible that Hemsworth might prefer charges against one of his superior officers. But when asked about these rumors, Frank squeezed his lips tight together and simply stated that he did not wish to make it unpleasant for anyone. "I don't want to be called a knocker." Gossip was that Hemsworth would be forced to leave the police department because if he gave out inside information, the police commissioners could point to his discharge and say that he was "sore".⁴⁰

Frank protested the suspension saying that he had entered saloons but never taken a drink while on duty and did not feel that his "offenses have been anything of a serious nature".⁴¹ But the Executive Board of the Police Committee and the Chief of Police held an official investigation November 27, 1903. Hemsworth admitted to eating in restaurants while on duty because he said he was hungry. He claimed that his conversations with women of unenviable reputations were entirely in the

interest of good. He testified that one woman he talked with was a “tall blonde that I used to go to school with and she got married and her husband led her to the bad. I felt sorry for her because she has respectable folks living on the East Side. I wanted her to go home and quit the way she was doing.” Furthermore, he was not guilty of conversing with the other women. They might have been around, but he didn’t speak with them. When Hemsworth was asked if he had information that he would use against the police if he was discharged, he replied “If I knew anything, I wouldn’t tell it,” and looked at the ceiling. When he was pointedly asked if he knew anything, he meekly replied, “No, sir.”⁴²

The case of another officer, suspended from duty because he lacked a cape, was heard the same day. The long military style cape cost patrolmen \$15 from the tailor under contract with the police but he had asked a friend to make his who then became ill. On Frank’s way out of the hearing, he loaned his cape to the suspended officer. The patrolman got reinstated, Frank did not. Frank probably kept the rest of his uniform and equipment – perhaps including one black pistol and a pair of shiny brass knuckles - to use later.

Frank Hemsworth remained silent about his suspension except to say that he had been offered a position with the Oregon Water Power company, where he was formerly employed.⁴³ He also wrote a letter to the newspapers. On December 2 the Oregonian and the Oregon Journal newspapers published Frank’s letter in which he stated that he had never given out interviews in which he had threatened to cause trouble by telling information detrimental to the Police Department, especially to certain officers. “I have never given out interviews in which I have threatened to cause trouble if the police committee did certain things. The information that has been published has not come from me for I have refused to talk to reporters regarding the case from the time of my suspension. Hoping you will publish this. I am yours respectfully, Frank W. Hemsworth, Patrolman.”⁴⁴

Frank was 23 years old in 1903 and went on to hold a variety of jobs. One job was a Special Officer, similar to what he had done in the police department and one where he could have used a pistol and brass knuckles. Special Officers had the same responsibilities as a regular Police Officer, (for example, they could carry a gun and be charged with conduct unbecoming an officer), however their wages came from businesses that needed protection and who gave money to the city. The specials were full or part-time or sometime employees given special powers.⁴⁵ They were hired for a specific purpose, such as elections, (which could be rowdy), protecting visitors

to the Lewis & Clark Fair in 1905, or by companies during a strike. Special Policemen were used during a teamsters’ strike and paid by the Drayman’s Association and Portland businessmen. In this instance, a special patrolman accompanied each wagon to make sure goods got delivered. Then during the Harriman strike of machinists and boilermakers in 1911, special officers, paid by the railroad, were appointed to guard the railroad shops. The Police Department took special pride that no lives were lost during either of these strikes.⁴⁶ On the other hand, Mayor Williams in 1905, refused to appoint an agent of the Sailors’ Union as a special policeman in the sailors and longshoremen disagreement on loading vessels in port. The mayor instead promised protection to every man without taking sides.⁴⁷

In January 1904, Special Officer Hemsworth did some heroic work in rescuing 96 residents from a fire at the Garfield Hotel, three of whom were injured. Officer Hemsworth carried to safety one of the victims, Lottie Crann, from her room in an unconscious condition.⁴⁸

In September Special Officer Hemsworth reported the Lewis & Clark Fair grounds peaceful in contrast to numerous arrests made elsewhere in the city.⁴⁹ An officer caught the “Holy Terror” preaching on Front Street in a fig leaf and a straw hat. Another officer captured “Jimmy the Worm” twice, a derelict who with a sweep of his arm marshaled the force of telephone poles into a line to assist him home.⁵⁰

Beneath the surface, Portland law enforcement was plagued by graft and corruption. In 1905 the Chief of Police was charged that he allowed certain saloons to stay open after hours and failed to use his authority to close them. In defense, he said that if saloons were open it was because his officers did not report them to him. The prosecution claimed that saloonkeepers declared officers were afraid to report them because saloons paid for the privilege of keeping open after hours. Some officers testified that the Chief always instructed them to be vigilant in reporting violations but others disagreed. Ex-policeman Hemsworth testified, “Chief Hunt told we needn’t exert ourselves to the extent of climbing on a box to look over a transom to see if a saloon was open.” Hemsworth testified that Blazier’s, Fritz’ and Erickson’s were allowed to stay open after the closing hour but under questioning by the Chief of Police, Frank admitted that he had been reported as being in a saloon after closing hours.⁵¹

One evening in 1906, Special Policeman Hemsworth was held at gun point by an elderly pedestrian at 20th and Everett streets. Hemsworth, over six feet tall, was leaning against a telephone pole, leading the citizen to

believe he was waiting for a victim. When it all got sorted out, Hemsworth considered the incident a joke.⁵² Special Officer Hemsworth was detailed to watch the home of the vice-president and director of a Trust & Saving Bank after he received a threat by telephone and asked for protection in 1907.⁵³ In 1908, Special Officer Frank Hemsworth, who had been a special watchman in the Nob Hill district, tendered his resignation but rumor was that he had arranged for an appointment as a deputy constable which would enable him to continue his work as a watchman.⁵⁴ Whatever his hopes and schemes were, they didn't work out. He did not work for law enforcement again, though he tried.

In a strange case August 5, 1909, Frank was working as a bartender and claimed to have served drinks to a Mrs. Maddux. Mrs. Maddux and her driver, Mr. Rodman, were indicted for manslaughter in the death of an intoxicated woman who was run over by an automobile that same night on Linnton Road. As a former special police officer and an employee of the Lakeview Inn, Frank testified before the grand jury that he had served Mrs. Maddux, even going to the jail to identify her.⁵⁵ Despite two grand jury indictments, neither Mrs. Maddux nor Rodman was convicted. They were actually drinking at another road house that night.⁵⁶ After testifying for the first grand jury, Frank left Portland for San Francisco.

Frank Hemsworth married Minnie Wohlfeil in San Francisco in November 1909. Minnie was the daughter of Prussian immigrants and grew up in the Albina neighborhood. Frank was 29, Minnie 18. They remained in San Francisco until 1916 and had 4 children, one of whom died at 3 months. Frank worked as a fireman, stevedore, and laborer.⁵⁷ Minnie's younger sister remembered visiting them in San Francisco and taking little Bea, (my grandmother), by the hand to get her papa from the saloon for supper.

Frank's father, John Hemsworth, known as "Pap" of Pap's Coffee House,⁵⁸ died while Frank was living in San Francisco in 1911. Following probate, each of John's four surviving children received \$290.65. Frank asked for an advance of \$200 on his inheritance, the only one of his siblings to do so. A creditor from San Francisco petitioned the court for \$96.70 of Frank's portion, but only received the remainder of \$90.65. In addition, John owned real estate that was divided into quarter shares for his four children.⁵⁹ Frank's share of the Portland properties inherited from his father was his only asset when he died.⁶⁰

In 1918, Frank brought his family back to Portland. He applied for reinstatement as a patrolman but was refused as his record was "cloudy". The Chief of Police

filed a report stating that Frank Hemsworth had shot a man in the leg, which was in the line of duty and approved, but later when the man sued the city, Hemsworth resigned and refused to appear against the man.⁶¹

Frank and his family rented a duplex for several years at 282 Margin, which was between the Broadway and Steele bridges, above the railroad tracks by the Willamette River. In September 1918 he worked as a longshoreman for the San Francisco and Portland Steamship Company at the Ainsworth dock.⁶² In October of that year, he was injured in a Williams Avenue trolley car that ran away on a bridge approach and crashed into a car parked on Third and Glisan streets. His ear was torn off and he sustained lacerations about his face, head and hands. At the time, he worked for the Oregon Auto Dispatch Company.⁶³

In 1923 at age 43, Frank Hemsworth applied for a military pension due to rheumatism and the amputation of his left ear in the street car accident. He died the following year on November 20, 1924 at St. Vincent Hospital of acute peritonitis. He had been employed as a piano mover for Sherman Clay Company.⁶⁴ His funeral was under the auspices of the Loyal Order of Moose and he was buried at Rose City Cemetery.⁶⁵

Despite rocky teen years, Frank Hemsworth seemed to have sought an honorable life, shaped by his military experience, then realized with the Portland police. Yet his own need for self gratification, his reticence to expose police corruption, his willingness to take the easy way out, perhaps sabotaged his dreams and ultimately diluted what could have been a positive stand for law and order.

Frank's widow, my great-grandmother, was arrested and charged with possession and sale of liquor in 1925. I nearly fell off the computer chair to discover my great-grandmother of house dresses and stout oxfords had been arrested. Members of the vice squad raided alleged moonshine dens, (in this case her home where she was raising her children at 101 Knott Street), and found 9 pints of liquor. Minnie Hemsworth was arrested by an undercover police officer who claimed to have purchased a pint of liquor from her for \$2.50.⁶⁶ No wonder she kept Frank's pistol and brass knuckles.

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Educate Yourself

Blogging as a Story Teller or for Cousin Bait

Leslie Brinkley Lawson

It has been said that when a person dies their history book closes forever. Sadly there's no going back and telling that story just one more time. In many ways genealogy is the telling of regrets. I regret that I didn't ask more questions of my older family members. I regret that I didn't record that conversation. I regret I didn't pay more attention to the details. I regret...

On a happier note let's talk about easy ways to save your stories! Let's talk about reasons you should take up blogging. Let's talk about you setting up a blogging account. Have you ever considered writing your stories? All genealogists talk about writing down the stories 'when I get time' but we never seem to make time to get the job done. So let's talk about smaller steps that are of equal value to your family. Let's talk about creating a blog and using it to tell not only your stories, post your family photos, and record memories, but using it as cousin bait! Yes, people can find you and help you if you are patient enough!

It is expected that as a genealogist you are passionate about your family history, about their stories. We all are, and to save those stories we have to write them down. We want our family to know the provenance of the pocket watch, the piano, the fine china and more! So we write these stories about these items and make it possible for our busy adult children to get the story again and yet know it's well preserved out there on the cloud. They can refer back to it any time they want to, and we can know the story won't die with us. Simply by writing a small chapter at a time, the story is saved forever. You can do this too!

When your history book closes, it closes forever. And if you don't write it down, the stories die with you. Do you really want to take all those stories with you? Won't you give this blogging thing a try? It really is pretty easy in this day and age to create a blog.

We all have family photos or family heirlooms. Have you considered writing about those items and their provenance? How about choosing just three items you want to write about. It can be as few as 100 words or as lengthy as you wish. You might want to work on 500-

word average. Did you have family members die who never had obituaries printed? Perhaps you can honor their memory with a well thought out memorial fully cited so that all those who come after you will know where you got the information for the posting.

Food for Thought

A Genealogy Blog Primer: <http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blog-primer/> You are encouraged to read this one before you set up your account.

Another primer with screen shots to set up a blogger account; be sure to read parts one, two and three on setting up the Google Toolbar, you decide whether that adds value for you: <http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/create-genealogy-blog-1.html>

Kimberly Powell at About.com wants you to write your family history as well and gives more food for thought here:

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/publishing/a/blogging.htm>

There are blogger themes to give you writing ideas. You can visit Geneabloggers and get some inspiration: <http://www.geneabloggers.com/daily-blogging-prompts/>

52 Weeks of Personal Genealogy & History:

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/home-52-weeks-personal-genealogy-history/>

Take the "Family History Through the Alphabet" Challenge: <http://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2012/05/take-the-family-history-through-the-alphabet-challenge/>

Think about what you might like to name your blog. And yes, if you want to change the blog title after you've gone live, you can. It isn't written in stone.

To get started, go to: www.blogger.com

This site is free. You'll need to create an account. Google owns Blogger so if you already have a gmail account, you will have an easier time creating your blogger account. And yes, you can have more than one blog. But for now let's just start one blog.

You can also create a website and have a blog attached to it. www.weebly.com is also free. Perhaps

you'll have a tab for your family reunion, and then tabs for stories for family groups, or blog postings for each family group. You can be as creative as your imagination allows you to be.

The Oregon Powell's have their family website/blog on weebly, <http://www.oregonpowells.org/>

There are several GFO members who have blogs. You can visit their sites, and perhaps find some inspiration or just some ideas of what you like or don't like. Go take a look.

Connie Lenzen, Connie's comments about genealogy and family:
<http://connie-lenzen.blogspot.com/>

Sue LeBlanc, Gopher Genealogy: <http://gophergenealogy.blogspot.com/>

Leslie Lawson, My Wonderful Family: <http://lesliebrinkleylawson.blogspot.com/>
Toolbox (blog at Weebly.com): <http://www.lawsonresearch.net/toolbox.html>

Jewell Dunn, Old Plates and Old People: <http://oldplatesandoldpeople.wordpress.com/>
Jewell uses the wordpress format for her blog.

Judi Scott, Puzzles of the Past, <http://puzzlesofthepast.blogspot.com/>

Virginia Interest Group at GFO, <http://gfovirginiarootsandvines.blogspot.com/>

The most important thing we can encourage you to do is to tell your stories! Post your photos and share your family stories. Encourage your family members to comment on the postings so that their memories will also be captured. Blogging is a wonderful way to tell your own family history as well as put information in the cloud to help those lost cousins find you. And if you grow tired of blogging, please do not remove your blog. Leave your stories for others to find, and in time you'll probably be contacted by cousins that want to share with you. We all come to genealogy at different times in our lives, leave your memories for others to find. If you tell us your stories, you never let your history book close.

Happy blogging!

Story Teller

Lost and Found!

Kristin Lowe-Bartell

One might ask, “What do metal detecting and genealogy have in common?” HISTORY!

Born, in Preston County, West Virginia, in 1840, a dark-haired young man of 18, five-foot- seven-inch, hazel-eyed farmer, named Amos Wilt, enlisted in Grafton, West Virginia, to serve his country during the Civil War.¹ Amos enlisted on 4 March 1864, in the 6th Regiment of the West Virginia Volunteer Calvary.² He was contracted to serve for a

period of three years, unless sooner discharged by the government.³ David S. Wilt, presumably Amos’ older brother, 23 years of age and a cooper by trade, enlisted on the same date, at the same location, to serve in the same Calvary Unit.⁴

Although no family wanted to think about losing a family member, some took action to prevent their sons, brothers, husbands and fathers from being unidentified, in the event of death. It appears that the family of this soldier or the soldier himself found a way to make an identification tag. In this case the face of a capped bust, half dime was ground off, in order to engrave it with information to identify the soldier. A hole was drilled thru the coin so that it could be worn around the neck. It is possible both boys had an identification tag, however, only Amos’ was found.

Amos spent time under arrest at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, from the 17th of July to the 24th day of August, 1865.⁵ His record stated that mutiny was the cause of his detainment, but his unit was released by Brigadier General, Robert M. Mitchell.⁶ No record of trial found.⁷ He was noted to have been at Fort Laramie, D.T. [Dakota Territory] in September, of 1865, on duty as a Stage Escort, in February, of 1866 and at Fort Sedgwick, Colorado in March, of 1866.⁸ Amos mustered out of the Calvary on the 22nd of May, 1866.⁹

While serving his country in Colorado, Amos must have lost his carefully handcrafted identification tag.



Approximately, 138 years later, in 2004, Stuart Pritchard along with some of his friends received permission from the land owner, a farmer, to detect metal, where a military fort previously stood.¹⁰ He had previously searched this piece of ground, however, this time, it had been recently cultivated. Freshly turned soil, along with the hope of new stories and treasures, nudged him to repeat his search. As the day progressed, he had located an

“eagle button and several mini balls, in various states of disrepair”.¹¹ He continued to scan the newly tilled earth when he heard a sound that any one operating a metal detector, would be excited to hear. It was a “high-pitched sound”, indicating, that silver had been located.¹² Stuart foraged through the clod of earth, and “saw a tiny silver coin, with only faintest remains of the eagle of a capped bust half dime on the back”.¹³ Upon further cleaning, and exploration he turned the coin over and discovered engraving that read: “A. Wilt, Co. E 6th W.V.V.C.”¹⁴ He kept the coin hoping that one-day he would discover the descendants of A. Wilt, of Co. E, and return the coin to the family. Stuart, spent time researching, A. Wilts, military travels, locating several articles and documents that identified his service and military whereabouts.

In, 2011, Stuart relocated to the scenic central coast of Oregon. As he was getting to know my husband and the other members of the staff, the conversation turned to sharing some of their favorite hobbies. Stuart explained how he found this coin. My husband, knowing that I had experience in locating descendants from previous projects, interjected that he knew someone that could possibly help him find Amos’s descendants. Stuart and I made contact and the necessary information was communicated. Within days, military records, censuses, marriage documents, birth registers and more were located to form several family group sheets. The list began to grow and possible descendants were identified.

A preliminary list, including four names and phone numbers, were given to Stuart. Sadly, the first phone call was not well received but the subsequent calls went exceptionally well. Excitement built, as arrangements were made to send the treasured coin to Amos's 3rd great grandson, in Florida. (His name is withheld for privacy purposes).

Amos and David both survived the brutal effects of war. By 1874, Amos migrated to Michigan¹⁵ and married Emily J. Richardson, in 1870.¹⁶ Four children were born of this union.¹⁷ Amos Wilt died on the 8th day of April, 1920, in Coleman, Michigan.¹⁸ David S. Wilt married Margaret Conley, about 1865.¹⁹ He died the 15th day of May, 1926, in Amboy, Preston, West Virginia.²⁰

Good things can and do come in small packages, even if it's in hidden in a clod of dirt. Before this occasion presented itself, one may have never considered how these two interests might support one another, but indeed they do.

This report does not represent an exhaustive search of the records, only what was needed, minimally, to find Amos's descendants.

Stuart Pritchard, is the manager of two hospital laboratories. He belongs to an organization called The Oregon Treasure Trail Society and travels extensively through-out the world in search of buried treasures, big and small.

Kristin Lowe-Bartell, is a native Oregonian and owner of KB Genealogical Services. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogist, National Genealogical Society, Volunteer Field Genealogist with NSDAR and current President, of the Lincoln County Genealogical Society. She has been researching family history, for over 20 years.

(Endnote

1 Compiled service record, Amos Wilt, Pvt., Co. E, 6th Reg., West Virginia Cal.; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s-1917, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C.; database, Fold3 (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 5 Jan 2012).

2 Compiled service record, Amos Wilt, Pvt.

3 Compiled service record, Amos Wilt, Pvt.

4 Compiled service record, David S. Wilt, Pvt., Co. E, 6th Reg., West Virginia Cal.; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s-1917, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C.; database, Fold3 (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 5 Jan 2012).

5 Compiled service record, Amos Wilt, Pvt.

6 Compiled service record, Amos Wilt, Pvt.

7 Compiled service record, Amos Wilt, Pvt.

8 Compiled service record, Amos Wilt, Pvt.

9 Compiled service record, Amos Wilt, Pvt.

10 Stuart Pritchard, Oregon, Narrative, January 2012; privately held by Kristin Lowe-Bartell, Waldport, Oregon, 2012. Stuart held personal knowledge of the events.

11 Stuart Pritchard, Narrative, 2012.

12 Stuart Pritchard, Narrative, 2012.

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14 Stuart Pritchard, Narrative, 2012.

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Written in Stone

Catholic Burials in Portland and Willamette Valley Areas

Mike Dalton

The History of Oregon would not be complete without the honorable mention of Roman Catholic clergy, the ordained priests, and the professed religious brothers and sisters of various orders of devotion. In the beginning, missionary priests arrived from Canada in 1836 and Sisters of Notre Dame arrived from Belgium in 1843. As Oregon grew, additional priests and sisters were recruited. As a native of Portland, Oregon, I attended several Catholic schools and churches.

Being that memory of various priests, sisters or nuns was engrained in my particular set of life experiences, I always wondered what became of them. The priests established and managed parishes. They ministered to their congregations with Masses served and officiated at their family baptisms, marriages and funerals. At times, they taught in schools or served as chaplains in hospitals. The most prominent of these would be: Father Francis Norbert Blanchet, the first Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Oregon City (1795 – 1883), and Archbishop Edward Daniel Howard (1877 – 1983), the longest lived Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Portland. Their formal address would ordinarily be Reverend or Father followed by their given forename and surname.

The religious clergy of various orders of devotion would be addressed by the title Brother or Sister. Initials after their names indicate the religious order. While many would be known to the public by their service; a significant number of the religious chose to devote their lives to God in the cloistered setting of a monastery.

They taught in parochial Catholic schools or acted as caregivers. For those of us who were honored with their dedicated presence, we fondly remember them by their professed name such as Brother Thomas or Sister Mary Anthony. Professed religious brothers ordinarily lived in monasteries and professed religious sisters lived in convents, commonly on the grounds of a parish church. Others lived on campus at academies or boarding schools, universities, hospitals or in facilities providing help to single mothers, orphaned and abandoned children, the needy and those requiring assisted care in the last days of their lives.

We would not ordinarily know the civilian names of Sister Mary Anthony or Brother Thomas until we read their obituary in a local newspaper such as The

Oregonian, The Oregon Journal or The Vancouver Columbian. The Catholic Sentinel, (founded in 1870) the weekly newspaper of The Archdiocese of Portland, has published obituaries of deceased clergy who were known to have served in the Portland area.

Several Federal Census counts of Oregon, 1940 and before, do have their surname, age and birthplace. It would help in researching to know the name and address of a particular parish. An Archdiocese of Portland directory from the year 1957 lists parishes, schools, hospitals, priests in residence and the number of sisters of a particular order at a convent. The Central Catholic High School yearbook from 1961 has the sisters listed by their religious names. All girl Catholic high schools were staffed by sisters of several religious orders. The University of Portland was staffed by priests and brothers of Congregation of the Holy Cross from Notre Dame, Indiana.

The Archdiocese of Portland office on East 28th and Burnside would have information on what religious orders were in Western Oregon and what parishes they were at in a given time period. They have a website listing religious orders of women currently serving in the Archdiocese of Portland. archpdx.org/religious_women/

In more recent decades, elderly clergy can be found in residence at a parish priory, convent or rectory or at a monastery, in a religious retirement home or at a motherhouse or provincial house of the order. Some of these locations may be out of state.

With the enlivened spirits of the 60's and 70's, a number of professed brothers and sisters left the confines of religious life and reverted back to civilian names and lifestyle and in most cases, a married life with spouses and children. A number of priests also left the priesthood and would then be known by their first and last names without the Reverend title or religious address. As a consequence, a number of catholic grade schools and high schools closed and the numbers of priests and sisters living in residence at a parish was reduced. Lay teachers or non religious people were then increasingly hired at competitive salaries and benefits, thereby increasing tuition costs for parochial education.

Knowing one's real name would then make it easier to document their genealogy and locate the living person

and their relatives. We would not ordinarily know about their former religious life, unless they chose to make it public in a newspaper article or obituary. A direct relative or family friend would be easier to find, since we would already know their family history and genealogical connections and what sources to consult.

The following is intended to be a genealogical guide to religious burials in the Metropolitan area of Portland, Oregon and the Willamette Valley. Most are buried in dedicated set asides within a cemetery. Some may be buried in family plots.

Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery opened in SW Portland in 1888, off of West Burnside and Barnes Roads, to offset the now closed pioneer St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery (1857 to 1930) in SE Portland. There is a set aside or special section of the cemetery known as "The Priests' Circle." It is across SW Barnes Road and on the hilltop below the outdoor altar. It is the final resting place of more than 100 priests who served in the Archdiocese of Portland. There are several priests buried elsewhere in the cemetery.

There are several orders of religious sisters buried at Mt. Calvary. The majority are buried uphill from the Irish Famine Memorial Celtic Cross, mainly the Sisters of Mercy who served at St. Agnes Baby Home in Oregon City and at St. Joseph's Home for the Aged in SE Portland and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Two orders of sisters are in the Outdoor Mausoleum. In an older section of the cemetery there are burials for Dominican sisters from San Jose, California,

Gethsemani Catholic Cemetery opened in SE Portland in 1960 off of SE Stevens and Sunnyside Road to offset the older Mount Calvary Cemetery. There is a set aside just above the main entrance for Sisters of the Precious Blood Monastery (established in 1892), which was off SE 76th and Main on the east slope of Mt. Tabor. There are also a couple of burials of Servite Fathers from The Grotto in the same set aside.

On a website known as Mount Calvary and Gethsemani Cemeteries, there is now a searchable database of burials at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland and Eugene and Gethsemani Cemetery. ccpdxor.com

Servite Cemetery at The Grotto or Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother is off of NE 88th and Skidmore. The Sanctuary was founded in 1924. This small cemetery of Servite Fathers and Brothers at The Grotto is in the upper part near the monastery. The Director of The Grotto should be contacted to visit this secluded site.

Mother Mary Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Vancouver, Washington is by the Vancouver Barracks

Army Post Cemetery off of East Mill Plain Blvd. St. James Catholic Cathedral in downtown Vancouver has the burial records. There are burials of The Sisters of Providence in the NW section of the cemetery. The Sisters of Providence served at the historic St. Vincent DePaul Hospital (1875) in downtown Portland and later at Providence Hospital in NE Portland (1941) as well as in SW Washington (1856). There are also three other orders of sisters buried at this cemetery.

Marylhurst Convent Cemetery is between Lake Oswego and West Linn in Clackamas County, off Oregon Hwy 43 and on the grounds of Marylhurst University, a Catholic University founded in 1893 for women. According to websites, findagrave.com and interment.net, there are 587 Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary buried here. A large number of them taught at the historic St. Mary's High School Academy founded 1859 in downtown Portland and at several Catholic parochial schools in the Portland area. There were several sisters that were removed to St. Paul, Oregon and vice versa.

St. Mary's of the Valley Cemetery is in Beaverton, OR off of SW Murray and TV Hwy. Founded in 1886, St. Mary's of the Valley High School and St. Mary's Home for Boys were operated by the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon. The convent cemetery has 188 internments of sisters and several priests according to website: findagrave.com.

St. Paul's Catholic Cemetery is in the Township of St. Paul in Marion County. There is a section of this pioneer cemetery known as "The Nun's Corner." Inscribed on the monument are the name of one Sister of Notre Dame (1849) and the names of 39 Sisters of The Holy Names of Jesus and Mary with burials ranging from 1870 to 1912. There several priests buried at this cemetery including Rev. Francis Norbert Blanchet (1883), the first Roman Catholic priest in the Oregon Territory arriving in 1836.

Mount Angel Abbey (Order of St. Benedict) has a cemetery on the abbey grounds. It is on a hilltop east of the town of Mount Angel in Marion County. The Abbey was founded in Oregon in 1882 as a monastery for Benedictine monks. In 1889, a seminary was established for the religious formation of candidates for the priesthood. There are 179 OSB brothers and priests buried here according to website, oregongravestones.org. It is important to remember the one hundred seventy years of contributions of now deceased religious men and women to the unique development of the Oregon Territory and, later, the State of Oregon as well as the benefits to the lives of families. Cemetery interment is but one starting point for family and genealogical research.

Relics

Portland's Collectors of Customs

Harvey Steele

Two striking relics of Portland's past, both constructed to be U.S. Customhouses, remain in the downtown area, the Pioneer Post Office at SW 5th and Morrison and the U.S. Customhouse at NW 8th and Everett. They date to an era when the U.S. Collector of Customs was the most important federal official in the state. From 1870 to 1965, that personage directed a large assemblage of federal workers, the biggest payroll in the state, public or private, in most of those years.¹

The reason for the importance was in the fact that most federal money needed to run the government was collected by U.S. Customs as tariff duties. As early as 1805, the agency collected 95% of the federal budget revenue. By 1870 that figure had dropped to 47.3% (on collected duties totaling \$194.5 million). In 1913, that percentage was still 44% of the federal budget, a year in which the law creating the internal revenue tax code was enacted. Thereafter, IRS was responsible for most federal revenue, although U.S. Customs still collected large percentages, ranging from 30.1% in 1915 to 1.25% in 1965.²

In addition to duty collection on imported goods, U.S. Customs was responsible for most immigration enforcement (until 1891), Coast Guard and Lighthouse functions, and regulation of the importation of many different types of contraband, from narcotics shipments to early food and drug laws. In the 20th century, as many new regulatory agencies were created (e.g. the Food and Drug Administration and country of origin marking requirements), U.S. Customs became the "eyes and ears of the federal government".³

In 1871, President Ulysses Grant appointed 50 Collectors of U.S. Customs at the various ports around the country. Topping the list was Chester Alan Arthur, Collector at New York, the largest port in the U.S. The appointee for Portland, Oregon, was Harvey Whitefield Scott, the well-known editor of *The Oregonian*, who was also considered a leader of the Republican Party in Oregon.⁴

In New York, Arthur supervised a payroll of over 1300 employees, the largest of any organization in the country (excepting the military branches and the post

office department) and, in fact, larger than any other government agency. The office of Collector of Customs was described as "the prize plum of Federal patronage" not only in New York but in all states which had ports of entry. The annual salary of the New York Collector eventually reached \$22,000 per annum plus about \$8000 in fees, more than the President of the United States was paid, although Arthur's 1871 opening salary was only \$6500 per annum.⁵

Recent biographers of Arthur have noted that, despite his background as a Tammany patronage politician, he proved to be one of the most outstanding Presidents. Among his accomplishments was the passage of the Pendleton Civil Service Act, which did more than any other law to moderate the national patronage system and install federal officers who were qualified in public administration.⁶

The Collector's job required not only commercial experience and knowledge, but a thorough schooling in the practical side of politics. Those Collectors who had limited commercial experience relied heavily on experienced deputies for the non-political side of their duties. In each port, the Collector was the largest dispenser of federal patronage in the state. While the Treasury Secretary had to approve his removals and appointments, in practice the Collector had a relatively free hand, especially when the ports were located thousands of miles away on the Pacific Coast.⁷

As late as 1891, when the civil service system had limited the Collector's appointing power, the *New York Times* wrote: "The post of Collector of the port of New York is in every respect second in federal service only to that of the Secretary of the Treasury."⁸

The emoluments of the Collector's office were so high as to make the position a very attractive one simply from the financial viewpoint. Until 1874, when a fixed salary replaced the moiety provisions, the Collector was the highest paid official in the whole federal government and was therefore in a position to make handsome contributions to the party war chest. That was as true of Portland and San Francisco as it was of New York City. Various harbor fees, shipmaster's fees, and

documentation fees were collected under the Collector's authority and for these he received up to five percent of each transaction. In Portland that averaged about \$300 a month, a large sum in the 19th century. A popular joke of the time was that when Chester Arthur became President upon the assassination of Garfield he (Arthur) had to take a cut in salary.⁹

With all the power and privileges, there was also the specter of removal every presidential election year. The author of *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville, was a Customs Inspector at the port of New York. His uncle, a prominent Republican politician, pleaded with President Grant in 1873 that his nephew was a "honest, competent official, surrounded by low venality but putting all quietly aside and quietly declining offers of money for special services and quietly returning money which has been thrust into his pockets behind his back, avoiding offense alike to the corrupting merchants and their clerks and runners, who think that all men can be bought..."¹⁰ The plea worked and Melville kept his job.

In Portland, Scott, who took office downtown not far from The Oregonian building, received \$3000 per annum plus about \$2000 in fees for supervising a workforce of 30 employees (largest in Oregon). During a period of expanding international trade in the state, Scott divided his time between an advisory role on The Oregonian newspaper (including editorials on Customs administration and the Tariff Acts), running the state Republican party machine, and his numerous Customhouse duties.

Scott's staff was concentrated in the "Flanders Building" at 24 North Front Street, one of several locations used until the completion of the large Customhouse building at NW 8th and Everett could be finished. The first staff list reads like a "Who's Who" of early Portland history:

Deputy Collectors – Henry L. Hoyt and Ferdinand N. Shurtleff

U.S. Appraiser – Medorem Crawford

Inspector – A. Bushwiler

Keepers of the Bonded Warehouse – P. T. Barclay and E. McCracken

Inspector of Hulls – Wm. Diedorff

Inspector of Boilers – James Lotan ¹¹

Those named above were only directors of a specialized workforce that included Inspectors (who questioned travelers entering the country), Appraisers and examiners who scrutinized imported goods, Vessel Admeasurers, secretaries and clerks, and many others. Genealogists familiar with the well-indexed Official

Register of Federal Employees, issued every other year, may discover ancestors among the long lists of employees and, invariably, some of those register names are very familiar. For example, the father of the famous James Beard, a food expert, was a Portland Customs Examiner, with one of his duties being the classification and valuation of Chinese food entering the port.¹²

Medorem Crawford was the first U.S. Customs Appraiser in Oregon.

That position had responsibility for the administration of the Tariff Act, a huge and complex document, which defined the tariff duties on an estimated twelve thousand imported commodities. Unlike the internal revenue codes, in which only about two dozen tax categories are identified, the tariff act required both detailed technical classification of the commodities but legal valuation of each of them. Up to 1870, the U.S. Treasury Department, the parent agency of U.S. Customs, had hired local merchants to set values on imported goods, a practice which had resulted in enormous frauds and corruption.

Crawford was only the third official Appraiser on the Pacific Coast, following the appointment of two at San Francisco. The complicated nature of the job was illustrated by the 1886 statement of Samuel Bridges, former U.S. Appraiser General:

"While I was Appraiser-General, and during my absence from San Francisco in Oregon, a ship arrived from China loaded with rice and tea. The tea was between decks. It consisted of small baskets weighing about two pounds, packed neatly in bales of twenty packages each. Fifty bales of the importation were damaged thirty per cent. The examiner allowed thirty per cent on the fifty bales and twenty per cent on the entire cargo under the assertion that the damaged bales affected the flavor of the whole cargo, and twenty per cent was allowed on that. The amount of the allowance was \$3500. One thousand five hundred dollars was paid the examiner and two thousand dollars to the importer, when the damage was not \$200."¹³

Scott (1838-1910) was a native of Illinois who came overland with his family in 1852. As Editor (and later part-owner) of The Oregonian, he was the most powerful political force in the state. During his tenure, the Pioneer Post Office later became Customs headquarters. At the time the building, costing \$365,332.20, was known as the Customhouse and Post Office, but its usable space was limited and Customs needed the larger Flanders quarters until the completion of the U.S. Customhouse in 1901.

In 1875 the Port of Portland showed increased Customs business, with imports totaling \$446,850 in

value. Leading the list were the following:

From England: 149,000 pounds of caustic soda, 66,000 boxes of glass, 792,775 pounds of railroad iron, and 1,539,175 pounds of salt.

From the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii): \$173,017 worth of salt, and 3,353,522 pounds of sugar.

More ominous, among the \$37,345 worth of merchandise imported from China, was 167 pounds of opium. In total value and total weight, Portland was the 9th largest opium port in the country, and other imports from Asia were among the six highest in the country.

Scott was succeeded briefly (three months) by Samuel Hannah and then by a Lane County farmer and lumberman, John Kelly (1818-1902), also a longtime Republican leader. Shurtleff, one of Scott's original staff, became Collector of Customs from 1880 to 1887. President McKinley removed him from office in 1897 and he spent the rest of his life on legal action against the removal. During the last quarter of the century there were Republican Party conflicts in Oregon between the Scott wing and the Ben Holladay wing.

Collectors following Shurtleff were Hyman Abraham (1867-1896) a Southern Oregon Democratic leader and Rocky Preston Earhart (1837-1892) a career politician.

During Earhart's term the Customs offices moved from the Pioneer Post Office in 1891 to a building in the NW Corner of First and Ankeny. The agency remained there until 1898, but the office of the U.S. Appraiser, which required close attention to imported commodities, was at 34 North Front Street.¹⁴

One importing trend, noted in a report for the 1890 Treasury Department, foreshadowed the future:

"Another instance of smuggling is that of prepared smoking opium. The increase of duty in 1883, from \$6 to \$10 a pound, stimulated smuggling to such an extent as to induce the investment of large capital in the organization of syndicates to engage in the business, so that the regular importations which paid duty were reduced from 298,000 pounds in 1883 to less than 40,000 pounds in 1885. It is safe to say that more than half of the prepared opium consumed in the country during the past six years has been smuggled."¹⁵ The opium problem was to be of primary concern to Portland throughout the following century.¹⁶

Collectors following Earhart were: James Lotan (1843-1918) one of the original owners of a large iron works, Thomas J. Black (1837-1899) a merchant from Halsey, and Isaac Lee Patterson (1859-1929) a farmer who became governor in 1927

The growth of the Customs district during this time

was reflected in the number of vessels calling:

Vessels entering the port – 26 in 1872 and 77 in 1892

Vessels clearing for foreign ports – 36 in 1872 and 97 in 1892

Vessels entering from domestic ports – 113 in 1872 and 168 in 1892

Duties on imports \$71,066 in 1872 and \$223,098.92 in 1892¹⁷

In 1901, U.S. Customs moved into the Customhouse at NW 8th Street.

The building was originally intended to house District Federal courts but the Federal judges refused to move their operation to the new building, considering the disreputable character of the neighborhood.

The Collector during this period was Philip Schuyler Malcolm, who came to Oregon from New York and was later active in the nativist movement, including the Klu Klux Klan.

The 8th and Everett building housed U.S. Customs from 1901 to 1968, when the agency moved to the Old Post Office at Broadway and Glisan.

The Customhouse building has an H-shape plan with pyramidal roofs on pavilions at intersections. Consistent with its Renaissance Revival style the building has shallow hip roofs, with granite at the first floor exterior. The granite came from Moore's quarry at Granite Point near Lewiston, Idaho.

Reflecting the important role of the Appraiser of Merchandise, east entrances and loading docks faced Broadway. On any working day, for nearly 70 years, tables near the loading dock doors were lined with imported cheeses, confectionery, antiques, clocks, and products from nearly every part of the world. Appraisers and Examiners, later called Import Specialists, weighed, measured, and analyzed products, frequently preparing samples for laboratory testing at San Francisco, in accordance with regulations and guidelines of the U.S. Treasury Department.¹⁸

In 1913 President Taft signed a bill that reduced the number of Customs districts in the nation from 150 to 47, throwing the two original districts in Oregon into one Portland district, comprising the State of Oregon and the North Bank of the Columbia River as far as Pasco, Washington. This

year heralded the collectorship of Thomas Carrick Burke, a powerful Democratic Party leader who unwisely backed the Bullmoose (Progressive Party) candidate for U.S. Senator. The victorious candidate, Senator George Chamberlain, used his power to oust Burke, in favor of a staunch Democrat, Will Moore, who held the top post until the Republican presidential victory in 1920.¹⁹

With the new internal revenue tax now contributing the majority of federal revenues, the power of U.S. Customs and its Collector waned, although the agency continued to have the largest payroll at the federal level (except the decentralized U.S. Post Office). Collectors who followed Moore were Republican party officials: George U. Piper (1866-1923) brother of the Oregonian publisher, Dr. Earl McFarland (1882-1926) famous for his fly-casting ability, and Edward Marion Croisan (1855-1947) Marion county Republican. After Roosevelt's election in 1932, appointees were Milton A. Miller, a friend of William Jennings Bryan and FDR, and Fred Fisk (1873-1950), a Lane County New Dealer²⁰

By 1938, Customs receipts for the year totaled over \$3.5 million, compared to \$558,926 just 50 years earlier. The staff had increased to 50 employees, compared to just 22 in 1888.²¹

On the more spectacular side, two large opium seizures were made in 1938. \$72,496 worth of smoking opium, concealed in 1576 one-tael tins, was found on the Philippine steamer Don Jose on September 3. Earlier, on July 28, \$90,000 worth of smoking opium was seized aboard the Norwegian motorship Granville.²²

A Treasury circular of July 1, 1938 indicated the street price of smoking opium in Portland to be \$225 per 5-tael tin compared to \$220 in Seattle, \$160 in San Francisco and \$110-\$290 (depending on grade) in Los Angeles. The report also noted that heroin, cocaine, and "red pills" were unavailable in Portland but morphine had a street price of \$195 an ounce, highest in the nation for that substance. A high price meant relative rarity, good news for local officers.²³

During the Franklin Roosevelt late period, from 1942 to 1953, the formidable Nan Wood Honeyman (1882-1970), a close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, was Collector of Customs. She had been the first Oregon congresswoman (1916-1938) and also was a daughter of the influential Charles Erskine Scott Wood, one of the most colorful characters in Oregon history.²⁴

Honeyman's tenure was followed by George Jameson, an insurance executive and Republican official. He was succeeded by Edna Scales of Sandy, Oregon, holding the position from 1961-1965. After her term expired, the position of Collector was abolished and the top position in each Customhouse was selected from within the Civil Service ranks. The title then became "District Director" a practice that continues today after the agency was reorganized under Homeland Security.

The position of Collector of Customs, important for the amount of revenue collected and for the size of the employee payroll in each port, had been greatly changed

in importance by the rise of the internal revenue system for collecting revenue. Tariff duties collected at Portland and the larger ports still total in the billions of dollars, but other activities of the agency, such as the enforcement of smuggling and illegal contraband laws, have changed the role since the time of Chester Alan Arthur and Harvey Scott.

(Endnotes)

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Extracts

Multnomah County, Oregon
Marriage Register Index 1911-1912

Extracted and Proofed by Marie Diers and Eileen Chamberlin

The index is sorted by the bride's surname. A copy of records from this and other Multnomah County Marriage Registers can be obtained in person or by mail. See details on the Genealogical Forum of Oregon website at GFO.org.

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Pleasant	Fred M	McHale	Belle E	1912
Jones	Alex J	McHale	Dorothy	1912
Tracey	A Charles	McHale	Katherine	1912
Anderson	Bert S	McIntire	Alice	1912
Lehmann	Francis H	McIntosh	Augusta B	1911
Renke	J C	McIntosh	Eleanor	1912
Smith	Jack	McKay	Barbara J	1911
Skogsberg	Austin	McKee	Lizzie	1912
Mumler	Albert P	McKenna	Lucy C	1911
Anderson	Chas A	McKimmond	L Christian (Mrs)	1911
Fink	Albert	McKinney	Caroline	1912
McDonald	K E	McKinney	Susie A	1911
DeWitt	Howard	McLean	Gertrude	1911
Roy	Albert E	McMullin	Ruby Elizabeth	1911
Davis	W R	McVey	Anna (Mrs)	1912
Alldrige	Clarence	Mead	Dorothy Pearl	1911
McDill	J Harvey	Means	Hazel Irene	1912
Nelson	Wendell	Mecklum	Reba	1912
O'Haver	Jacob	Meliere	Helene	1911
Schiller	Wm	Menke	Louise (Mrs)	1911
Shueller	Emil	Menken	Notelege	1912
Boon	D P	Merrill	Flora M (Mrs)	1912
Sharlow	Freeman Richard	Merrill	Frances M	1911
Bewrie	W S T	Merritt	Valena G	1912
Ott	Arthur	Messenger	Lydia	1911
McCurry	Benjamin Rotome	Metcalf	Alice Adella	1911
MacIver	Donald	Metcalf	Gladys	1912
Ball	Ralph John	Metzger	Lydia	1912
Honeyman	Wm B (Jr)	Meyer	Alice	1911
Juergs	Otto D	Meyer	Anna	1911
Hartung	George W	Meyer	Anna M	1912
Rohde	N F	Meyer	Emma E	1911
Brunker	James A	Meyer	Margaret	1911
Dekuhr	J R	Michels	Anna M	1911
Pelton	Lester Alfred	Mickey	Edith	1912
Zeigler	Frederick Jay	Midlam	Anne Elizabeth	1911

Multnomah Marriages Continued:

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Doncette	Adolf L	Mielke	Margaret	1911
Strawn	W H	Miles	Grace B	1911
Enster	Alfred A	Miles	Irene Louise	1911
Goldberg	Morris	Milgrain	Annie	1912
Summer	Charles	Milhandt	Paulina	1911
Campau	William R	Miller	Catherine A	1912
Urban	M L	Miller	I Pearl	1912
Barman	Thos L	Miller	Marjorie M	1912
Mann	Joseph C	Miller	Matilda O A	1912
Farrier	Francis Marion	Miller	Maude Adelide	1912
Harvey	Darwin G	Millering	Bessie A	1911
Hilliard	Roy C	Mitchell	Clara	1912
Jaeger	Ralph E	Mitchell	Emma F	1911
Thornton	Archie	Mitchell	Sophia J	1911
Myers	H H	Moehnke	Marie	1912
Gilmore	William S	Moffitt	Ella M	1911
Silcox	Louis F	Monies	Jessie M	1911
Ross	Asa Garfield	Monroe	Sibly Winnifred	1911
Spaulding	Vernon O	Montague	Ida M	1911
Mason	John E	Montgomery	Anna L	1911
Hesse	Frank C	Moore	Edna Maud	1912
Lewis	Hugh	Moore	Marjorie	1911
Wallsteed	George Thomas	Moore	Minnie May	1911
Trigg	P H	Mores	Lillie (Mrs)	1912
McKee	Amos L	Morgan	Clara	1911
Summers	Owen (Jr)	Morgan	Mildred May	1912
Butchek	A H	Morris	Clara (Mrs)	1911
Blake	W A	Morris	Eva J	1911
Daniels	Harry	Morris	Lena A	1912
Chetsas	George	Morris	Murial	1911
Milne	William	Morrison	Lulu	1911
Wright	Andrew David	Morse	Francis Elizabeth	1911
Zumwalt	Earl I	Mosely	Beatrice	1911
Reiland	Martin	Mosley	Mary Alice	1 1912
Wohlgemuth	Fred N	Moye	Alberta	1911
Karg	Henry	Muehlig	Elsa E	1912
Hart	Frank	Mulvy	Daisy	1911
Wilhelm	Fredrick S	Munger	Wilma C	1911
Shorr	Geo S	Munson	Maud	1912
Ralston	Lounes O (Jr)	Murphy	Ethel Edith	1911
Nichols	Stillman O	Murphy	Mable	1911
Newell	J C	Murphy	Marnie	1911
Rowley	Ray W	Mustinger	Margaret S	1911
Chick	Leon H	Myrick	Calista S	1912
Kreglow	Fred E	Nanes	Katherine E	1911

Multnomah Marriages Continued:

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Santensani	Angelo	Napolione	Maria Domenica	1911
Nash	D O	Nash	Ellen	1911
Ryan	John C	Nash	Kate E	1912
Parrett	Robert J	Neel	Margaret (Mrs)	1912
Bredall	Peter C	Neilsen	Margarethe	1911
Lande	Daniel Danielson	Nelson	Anna Ericka	1911
Coyle	L A	Nelson	Bonnie E	1912
Landon	J D	Nelson	Jennie	1912
Burgess	W M	Nelson	Jennie (Mrs)	1911
Reynolds	Daniel C	Nelson	Julia J	1911
Larsen	Alfred	Nelson	Minna	1912
Nelson	Albert W	Nelson	Minnie H	1911
Finn	James H	Nelson	Sappho M	1912
Johnston	A L	Newcombe	Vera M	1911
Purkenson	Justin C	Newell	Gertrude L	1912
Bross	John	Newhouse	Edith Bella	1911
Cole	Wilford B	Nichols	Myrtle A	1911
Hansen	Emanuel	Nicolaisen	Christine	1912
Pollola	Casper	Nikula	Olga	1912
Duncan	C A	Nivens	May L	1912
Larsen	Lars S	Nixon	Mary B	1912
Glover	Dolphy Milton	Noble	Helen Grace	1911
Harritt	K W	Norwood	Alves Lenore	1911
Arend	Chas H	Norwood	Lola B	1912
Johnston	J P	Noslin	Hilma	1911
Williams	R E	Noyes	Grace L	1911
Olstrom	Erik	Nyberg	Emma K	1911
Benson	Andrew	Nylen	Signe	1911
Carlson	Victor C	Nylund	ohanna E	1912
Block	Sam	Obermiller	Mary	1911
Moller	Elmer Rhodes	Oberteuffer	Sarah Francis	1911
Phipps	Orlan	O'Brien	Ivy	1911
McKenna	Coe A	O'Brien	Lillian C	1912
Rambo	Henry A	O'Brien	Matilda	1911
Colling	Harry	O'Brien	May	1912
Simpson	R W	O'Connell	Thresa M	1912
White	Joseph M	O'Connor	Catherine	1911
Wood	Calvin	O'Connor	Martha	1911
Dupuy	John E	O'Donnell	Mildred E	1912
Spratten	Sanford W	Officer	Lorena	1912
Allen	Joseph W	O'Gara	Margaret M	1911
Lawrence	Arthur W	Oglethorpe	Alminnie	1912
Lane	Dennis W	O'Hara	Katherine	1912
VonVillemayor	Walter	Olander	Augusta	1912
Larson	Andrew G	Olsen	Hanna L	1911

Multnomah Marriages Continued:

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Hanson	John	Olsen	Ingrid Maria	1911
Freeman	Clifford	Olson	Bertha	1911
Robinson	William B	Olson	Blanche	1911
Meister	Harry	Olson	Emma	1912
Akenson	August H	Olson	Neva Elmore	1911
Uernland	Fred C	O'Meara	Kathleen	1911
Haughlin	Lewis	O'Neill	Julia	1912
Brown	Clyde Allen	Ornstander	Anna Elizabeth	1911
Brunson	L W	Orr	Francis	1912
Haener	Frank Albert	Osborne	Catherine Anna	1911
Pender	John	Ostrand	Lydia	1911
Zomkich	Luka	Oviani	Margaret	1912
Yount	Frank	Owen	Hazel Belle	1912
Cox	Delbert	Palmer	Rose Ruth	1911
Gregory	Clare Millon	Pangburn	Edith May	1911
Evans	W F	Parker	Emma (Mrs)	1912
Johnson	Willis L	Parker	Lillian J (Mrs)	1912
Smith	Guy Eugene	Parmenter	Kathryn	1912
O'Brien	Frank A	Paterson	Jennie	1911
Gonslie	A Clare	Patterson	Mary	1912
Trent	T R	Patterson	Mary L	1912
Harris	J B	Patterton	Mary	1911
Condray	Andrew P	Patton	Georgettie	1911
Gill	Floyd E	Patton	Verna M	1912
Hagstrom	David	Pearson	Anna Victoria	1912
Nelson	Chris	Pederson	Christine	1912
Kelmer	Fred	Pederson	Johanne Elsie	1911
Burtis	Jesse G	Pendergrass	Laura E	1912
Warner	Chas	Pererez	Marguerite (Mrs)	1912
Shevlin	Jas Jos	Perkins	Helen	1911
Capparell	Peter A	Peronto	Agnes	1912
Service	C R	Peters	Agusta E	1911
Lambert	Arthur	Peters	Hattie May (Mrs)	1911
Nelson	Andrew	Peters	Stella	1911
McGrew	Roy L	Peters	Tonia	1912
Mainwaring	Ralph	Peterson	Ella	1911
Danielson	Henry Johan	Peterson	Kristine Marie	1911
Petty	John	Petty	Fannie	1911
Hoffman	H A	Pfeifer	Caroline	1912
Gilham	Ray V	Pfeifer	Matilda	1911
Widenman	C A	Pfeifer	Winnifred	1911
Cadonau	Christian H	Pfiefer	Myrtle	1911
Fields	Oscar C	Phelps	Beulah H	1911
Magunson	Carl E	Philips	Marie W	1911
Fox	John C	Phillips	Julia A	1911
Locke	John A	Phillips	Winnie E	1911
Rivelli	Emilio	Pienovi	Giovanna	1912

to be continued

Book Reviews

The following reviews are for three versions of the publications of *Genealogy at a glance*, by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 2011. These add to this collection of handy reference guides for genealogy researchers at the GFO. Orders may be sent to 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953. Website: www.genealogical.com or phone 1-800-296-6687.

Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG, MFA, American Cemetery Research, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 2012.

Audience: This guide provides basic information for anyone doing cemetery research in the United States and beyond. The websites provided are primarily for U.S. research.

Purpose: The author provides a concise general overview of the topic to assist researchers in their pursuit of cemetery resources.

Author's Qualifications: Sharon specializes in helping others write and publish their family histories, memoirs, or other nonfiction works. She has a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Nonfiction Writing and has 20+ years experience in writing and publishing. She specializes in Emigration & Immigration, Irish American and Italian American research. A companion book she published is, *Your Guide to Cemetery Research*, (2002).

Writing Style: The author writes in a casual manner, helping the reader to understand significant points in doing cemetery research. Her presentation is limited, but easy to follow.

Organization: On the first page you will find Contents, and Quick Facts and Important Dates. Other topics covered include: Your Ancestor's Final Resting Place, Types of Cemeteries (9), Planning Your Cemetery Field Trip, Photographing Markers, Tombstone Rubbings, Finding the Living Among the Dead and Databases of the Dead. There is a brief list of some items to include in Your Cemetery Equipment, which is further expanded under Photographing Markers.

Accuracy: The author's years of experience are reflected in this overview of cemetery research. The twelve websites (which are highlighted) and five reference books help to define the high level of accuracy in this four-page guide.

Conclusion: This quick read material is a great refresher for anyone involved in cemetery research. While it is entitled, *American Cemetery Research*, it is

applicable for anywhere one might be working on finding and locating one's ancestral burial places.

A Word of Grave Caution is especially important to those exploring in cemeteries.

Claire Bettag, CG, CGL, French Genealogy Research, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 2012.

Audience: This is a must read for anyone working on French family history. It provides the researcher with a great overview of available French records and how they apply to finding one's French ancestors.

Purpose: The intent of the author is to provide researchers with a quick and easy overview of researching in France.

Author's Qualifications: Claire is a full-time, professional genealogist, certified 1997. Specialties: Acadian and Canary Island families of Louisiana, her native state. She has researched in the National Archives, Library of Congress, Louisiana, Family History Library (SLC), and France. Claire is a popular lecturer and writer. She has a M.A., in French, from Columbia University, is a Fulbright fellow (France) and Woodrow Wilson fellow. Her studies include: Spain, Quebec, Mexico, and French, Spanish languages.

Writing Style: In this guide every space is occupied with essential information. The formatting of the presentation is easy to follow.

Organization: The contents include the following sections and sub-sections:

Quick Facts; Immigration/Emigration – Major Periods of French Immigration (into the U.S.), Who Were the Immigrants, and Emigration/Immigration Records; Unlocking French Family History – Pinpointing the Town of Origin, Family Names, Huguenots; Political/Archival Organization; Major Record Sources – Parish Registers 16th century-1792, Civil Registrations 1792-present, Notarial Records 16th century-present, Censuses; Other Records; Repositories; Online Resources.

Accuracy: This material represents years of professional research experience in French research. With the inclusion of sixteen different websites (which are highlighted) and ten reference materials, one might assume a highly accurate presentation.

Conclusion: The guide, *French Genealogy Research*, is an essential resource for family history work for ancestors from France. Within it is found information covering all essential research facilities and the best process for using them. Included are some great Tips and French word translations.

Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG, MFA, Italian Genealogy Research. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 2012.

Audience: This guide is for researchers who are working to discover the origins of their Italian ancestors.

Purpose: The guide is helpful for understanding the unique aspects of the Italian people and their immigration to the United States. It presents the culturally significant aspects of their lives and the records they left behind. She notes that often these people were slow to become naturalized, as many did not intend to stay in the U.S.

Author's Qualifications: Sharon specializes in helping others write and publish their family histories, memoirs, or other nonfiction works. She has a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Nonfiction Writing and has 20+ years experience in writing and publishing. She specializes in Emigration & Immigration, Irish American and Italian American research. A companion book she published is, *Italian-American Family History: A Guide to Researching and Writing About Your Heritage*, (1997)).

Writing Style: The formatting of the information is easy to follow and flows well.

Organization: The contents include the following sections and sub-sections: Quick Facts and Important Dates; Italian Immigration and Social History – Return Migration and Chain Migration, Ports of Departure and Arrival, Settlement Patterns, and Social Customs; Starting Your Search in America; Finding the Italian Town of Origin – Italian-American Neighborhoods and Little Italys, Death Matters, Patron Saints, Food Preferences; Research in Italian Civil Records – Using Civil Records; Online Sources; Writing to Italy.

Accuracy: The guide provides information on nine references for further reading and ten online resources (which are highlighted). Half of the online resources are within familysearch.org, which has a large collection of microfilms containing records for Italy. The author's years of professional experience is shared in the information within the guide.

Conclusion: This guide, *Italian Genealogy Research*, is a valuable tool for those with Italian ancestors. They come from unique and diversified backgrounds and Sharon explains why one must understand their culture for success in finding their records. Throughout the guide there are Tips and Italian Word Translations.

Jackie Smith Arnold, Kinship It's All Relative, Enlarged Second Edition, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 2012, 144 pgs.

Audience: This book is a useful tool for genealogists and others who are trying to understand how people fit into family groups.

Purpose: The book provides an explanation of why knowing about family lineage and kinship is important. Additional information about events and topics surrounding families and how they have evolved over time helps the reader to understand important concepts.

Author's qualifications: The only information about the author is the dedication to her three sons: David Michael Batts, Charles Howard Batts and Thomas Alan Batts. It is in memory of Charles Howard Batts. There is a portrait of the author, but no other personal information is included or was located on genealogy websites or google.

Content: The book explains kinship, kinship groups, marriage, family, names, wills, medical charts, etc. The charts are useful for explaining family relationships. Charts with information on "Legal Marriage Age" and "Common-Law Marriage" by states present information on marriage laws, but are not cited as to when they were created or the time periods they cover.

Writing Style: For the most part the book is easy to follow and the author writes in a very casual style.

Organization: After a brief introduction the book is divided into the following chapters: Kinship, Marriage, Kinship Groups, Our Three Families, Family, Names, Wills, Kinship and Your Health, Medical Charts, Tracing Your Family Tree, Kinship and the Future and concludes with the Epilogue. There is a Bibliography and a Reference List, which provides some great resources for further study. The Glossary lists words connected to the study of kinship and families. After the index is found the new section titled, "Same-Sex Marriage," which concludes with "Same-Sex Marriage Laws in the United States by State."

Accuracy: The information appears to be fairly accurate, but very few source citations are included. Some of the information is dated and may have changed since she wrote the first edition of the book in 1990.

Conclusion: This is a very useful book and the more I read it the more I liked it. There does seem to be some personal bias and narrow interpretation of the topics being discussed, but overall she presents very useful material in a very organized manner. In some instances the author makes statements based on factual information without citing the source being discussed. Overall the book is a very good resource for understanding the background of kinship and families.

On Memoriam

GERALDINE HARRISON

Geraldine June (Drack) Harrison, 86, passed away in Gresham, on June 16, 2012. June was born June 25, 1925 in the family home in Portland, to Herman Martin Drack and Geraldine Lillie Drack and attended Beaumont Grade School, graduating from Grant High School, Class of 1943. She married Charles William Harrison, Jr. at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church on June 17, 1947. June was predeceased by her husband; parents; and brother, Col. Warren E. Drack. Survivors include her daughter, Anita K Harrison; son, Charles W. Harrison, III (Linda); grandchildren, Chad Smith, Dustin Smith, Matthew Harrison and Kristen Riley; and great-granddaughter, MacKenzie Stevens. At her request, no service was held. Her final resting place is at Willamette National Cemetery, next to her husband, Chuck. Donations in her memory may be made to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 2505 Southeast 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.

DOTTIE MILLER

Dorothy "Dottie" L. Miller passed away at home in Gresham, OR on April 29, 2012 at the age of 64. Dottie was born August 9, 1947 in Tillamook, Oregon. She was raised and educated in Gresham, OR. She married Jerry Miller in 1967. She enjoyed crafts, genealogy research, her grandchildren, and was a member of the Red Hat Society. Survivors include her husband Jerry Miller at home; two daughters, Jeri Alvarez of Portland, OR, and Heather Miller of Milwaukie, OR; daughter in law, Melissa Gaither; two grandchildren, Trynity and Orion Alvarez and brother, Gary Dulaney of Ohio.

GFO note: Dottie for a time oversaw the scheduling of our Research Assistants. We will miss her bright smile and dedication to GFO. Lyleth

AGNES RUTH NUTTBROCK

Agnes Ruth (Snook) Nuttbrock, age 82, passed away peacefully on June 6, 2012 in Milwaukie, Oregon, after persevering without complaint through 5 years of cancer.

She was born Nov 3, 1929, in Elm Creek, Nebraska, to Bernard and Olive Snook, the eldest of nine children. She attended school as a young girl in Nebraska and moved to Keizer, Oregon, when she was ten.

She fell in love with her husband of 63 years while attending Salem Academy. She graduated in 1948 and

was married later that year. While living in Keizer, she worked at the Murdoch Cannery and in the maternity ward at Salem General Hospital. She later attended the Bethesda Bible Institute in Portland, Oregon. In 1958, Agnes and Delbert moved to Milwaukie, where she created a loving home for her four children. She was a Sunday School Teacher at the Milwaukie First Church of The Nazarene and provided child care. She was a long time member and volunteer at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. Agnes was a caring person, devoted wife and mother, always thinking of others first.

Beyond her immediate family, her passion was researching the extended family tree. She supported, encouraged, and helped organize Snook and Nuttbrock family reunions. She spent 50 plus years researching family history on microfiche and computers. Her research of the family lineage took her to libraries, city halls, and cemeteries across the country while gathering information and paying tribute to forgotten ancestors. The information and stories she gathered enrich the lives of her family with a better understanding of their ancestors and a pride in themselves and their heritage. The family history books she compiled and created are part of her legacy for future generations. Her values and love of life provided inspiration and guidance for her children to follow throughout their lives. Her love and laughter lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Agnes is survived by her husband, Delbert Nuttbrock; children and their spouses, Dennis and Gail Nuttbrock, Jerry and Jill Nuttbrock, Wayne and Cindy Nuttbrock, and Charlene and Lon Paulson; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and six brothers and sisters. She is preceded in death by her infant daughter, parents and two siblings, Dorothy Hittle and Ted Snook.

From Janice Healy, GFO: For you new folks Agnes was a very dedicated worker for many years at the Forum. While the library was up at the Neighbors of Woodcraft building is where I got to know her. She was always a great help to new members and did many things in the print shop and else where. typed address labels for the Bulletins, etc. at the Forum for so many years. She will be missed by all.

Kena Jacobs: Strange coincidence. Agnes died on the same day that my mother had a major stroke from which she may not recover. Agnes was a second cousin of my mother, Betty Jane (Snook) Jacobs. Their dads were 1st cousins and best friends, so Agnes and her siblings spent lots of time with my mother and her siblings.

Genealogical Forum of Oregon presents ...

NARA Half-day Seminar

Carol Buswell, NARA Educator



Topics

- Introduction to the National Archives, its records, regions, affiliates, and organization system.
- Using the online resources of the National Archives to find people, events, photographs, and more.

The presentations will include information about the importance of historical context when doing genealogical research.

The Seattle facility of the National Archives has extensive microfilm holdings of value for genealogy research, including Federal population censuses, military service records, pension and bounty land warrant applications, and selected passenger arrival lists. It also has more than 30,000 cubic feet of archival holdings, among them textual documents, photographs, maps, and architectural drawings, dating from the 1850s to the 1980s. Subjects of local interest include Chinese exclusion, Native Americans, the home-front during World War II, and smuggling.

Saturday
29 September 2012
10 am - 2 pm
GFO Library

Limited to 50 attendees

No lunch provided

Brown bags welcome. Cafés nearby.

Coffee, tea, and snacks included.

The library will be open for research after the seminar.

Event Schedule

9:45 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 11:45	1st session
11:45 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 2:00	2nd session

NARA Half-day Seminar Sign-Up Form

29 September 2012

Members ___ \$20 received by 9/22/12 ___ \$25 received after 9/22/12 ___ \$30 at the door

Non-Members ___ \$25 received by 9/22/12 ___ \$30 received after 9/22/12 ___ \$35 at the door

Total Enclosed _____

Name _____ Member No. _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Email for confirmation _____

Please make check payable to "Genealogical Forum of Oregon" or "GFO."

Attn: NARA Seminar, GFO, 2505 SE 11th Ave, Ste B18, Portland OR 97202-1061

503-963-1932

www.gfo.org

gfoinfo@hotmail.com



FB

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			28 OPEN until 8 pm = 11:00 AM Brown Bag Webinar - Building a Family from Circumstantial Evidence			1 = 10:00 AM Virginia Group = 1:00 PM German Group
	2 LIBRARY CLOSED LABOR DAY		4 OPEN until 8 pm	5 = 9:00 AM Genealogy for Beginners = 6:30 PM Genealogy for Beginners		8 = 9:30 AM Illinois Group = 11:45 AM Writers' Forum = 2:00 PM Century of Action, 100 Years of
	9 Free to Non-members	10 = 6:00 PM Board Meeting	11 OPEN until 8 pm = 11:00 AM Brown Bag Webinar - What is a "Reasonably Exhaustive Search"?	12 = 9:00 AM Ancestry.com for Beginners = 6:30 PM Ancestry.com for Beginners		15 = 1:00 PM Irish Group
			16 OPEN until 8 pm = 10:00 AM Using Picasa by Nanci Remington	17 = 9:00 AM Family Trees on Ancestry.com = 6:30 PM Family Trees on Ancestry.com		22 = 10:00 AM Intro to Genealogy = 1:00 PM British Group
			23 OPEN until 8 pm = 11:00 AM Brown Bag Webinar = Digital Research Guidance and more...	24 = 9:00 AM Family Tree Maker 101 = 6:30 PM Family Tree Maker 101	25 = 10:00 AM Friendsview Library Tour	26 = 10:00 AM NARA Half-Day Seminar
	30 Free to Non-members		31 OPEN until 8 pm	1 = 9:00 AM Using Find a Grave = 6:30 PM Using Find a Grave	2 = 5:00 PM First Friday Evening (FREE)	3 = 10:00 AM Virginia Group = 1:00 PM German Group

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October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30 Free to Non-members		1 OPEN until 8 pm	2 = 9:00 AM Using Find a Grave = 6:30 PM Using Find a Grave	3 = 5:00 PM First Friday Evening (FREE)	4 = 10:00 AM Virginia Group = 1:00 PM German Group
		7 = 6:00 PM Board Meeting	8 OPEN until 8 pm	9 = 9:00 AM Hansel & Gretel Genealogy = 6:30 PM Hansel & Gretel Genealogy		12 = 9:30 AM Illinois Group = 11:45 AM Writers' Forum = 2:00 PM Monthly Program
			14 OPEN until 8 pm	15 = 9:00 AM RA Training = 1:00 PM RA Training = 6:00 PM RA Training		18 = 9:30 AM Computer Interest Group = 12:00 PM TMG SUG
		21 = 1:00 PM DNA Group	22 OPEN until 8 pm	23 = 9:00 AM Family Tree Maker 102 = 6:30 PM Family Tree Maker 102		24 Fall Genealogy Seminar
			28 OPEN until 8 pm			29 = 10:00 AM Virginia Group = 1:00 PM German Group

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Oregon State Marriage Indexes

1925 to 1945

The 4th and final CD is now available from the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. It covers the war years and there are many out of state couples being married in Oregon. If you have not found your bride and groom in their home state, check Oregon! About one quarter of the couples being married in Oregon were not Oregon residents. The CDs are as follows:

Vol. 1 – 1925-1929, Vol. 2 – 1930-1934, Vol. 3 – 1935-1939, and Vol. 4 – 1940-1945. The CDs run on Internet Explorer.

An order may be placed by sending a check for \$12 (includes shipping) for each CD ordered. Send your order to Genealogical Forum of Oregon, ATTN: Oregon Marriage CDs, PO Box 42567, Portland, OR 97242-0567.



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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.

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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:

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