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Letter From The Editor

Genealogy is much more than a list of names and dates, it is the *story* of our ancestors, our family. For most of us that story includes at least one tale of traveling a well-trodden path to make a better life, whether it's fleeing the Dust Bowl or traveling the Wilderness Road to Kentucky. From the pre-contact migration of the Athabaskan, to the thirteen colonies, to the Oregon Trail, numerous waves of migration have occurred throughout North America. To really understand our ancestors we should try to have some knowledge of the reasons that fueled their migration. Was it religion, finances, weather, or adventure? There were often very specific causes; most often in the land we now call the United States the motivating factor was the desire for land.

Several articles in this issue may give you some insight into those motivations, as well as the primary migration routes your families might have traveled. There are also some tips to help use this knowledge in your research. You can travel with a family moving from New England to the Midwest, along the Great Wagon Road in Virginia and, of course, the Oregon Trail. There's even a trip through Panama!

The second place winner for the writing contest is a lovely story chronicling brothers in World War II using their mother's journal. Unfortunately, the GFO writing contest has been suspended for this year. Peggy Baldwin, after several years of managing the contest, has stepped down and no one else has come forward to take over. The contest was a good opportunity for those of us writing the stories of our families; I am sorry to see it go, it is a loss for the GFO.

And on that note; the editorial staff of the Bulletin has been shorthanded for several years, and we may be losing another member of our team soon. Surely there are some Forum members out there who would be willing and able to step up and keep the Bulletin alive. It does require a substantial commitment, but it is a team effort.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of The Bulletin.

Judi Scott
judiscot@gmail.com

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Feature Articles

Colonial Migration Routes

Judith Beaman Scott

The Atlantic frontier was compounded of fisherman, fur trader, miner, cattle-raiser, and farmer. Excepting the fisherman, each type of industry was on the march toward the West, impelled by an irresistible attraction. Each passed in successive waves across the continent. Stand at Cumberland Gap and watch the procession of civilization, marching single file -- the buffalo following the trail to the salt springs, the Indian, the fur trader and hunter, the cattle-raiser, the pioneer farmer -- and the frontier has passed by.¹

The causes for colonial emigration were numerous: religion, politics, wars, overcrowding, etc. Once the immigrants arrived in the colonies their reasons for migrating were just as varied. Religion played a part, especially for groups like the Moravians or Quakers. Weather was a factor; a cold period of the Little Ice Age wreaked havoc on parts of New England, cutting the growing season.² But the dominate factor was the desire for land. The early Colonists were squeezed into an area bordered by an ocean to the east and mountains to the west and it wasn't long before they wanted more.

Learning about migration routes, and the reasons they were traveled, may help you determine where your family came from, fill gaps in your ancestors' stories, and give you a better understanding of their lives.

Worn out land, overcrowding, new immigrants, and most importantly, the availability of free or low cost land led to surges of migration through Virginia and mandated new roads into frontier areas. As new areas in the colonies opened for settlement people in the coastal regions, as well as new immigrants, swarmed to take up the land

From the time of the first colonial settlement, Jamestown, the inhabitants were determined to find a route to the western sea. Beginning with John Smith, who explored Virginia's rivers looking for a passage, there were frequent forays to the west. And time after time the explorers were halted by the immense range of mountains, through which no passage could be found, the Appalachians.

Geography and geology determined where the colonists settled and the routes they traveled. The Appalachians sweep from northeast to southwest along the eastern seaboard of North America from Canada to Alabama, covering an area from 100 to 300 miles wide. From the sea through the mountains there are five distinct

geographical divisions that had a profound effect on the settlement of the colonies and migrations patterns.

The low coastal plain, commonly referred to as the Tidewater in Virginia and the Low Country in the Carolinas, was the first to be settled. In the Northern colonies this area was somewhat narrow, but it broadened toward the south. In the middle colonies land in the Tidewater was quickly taken up by the "elite." As the population grew, the land became crowded and more expensive, and in Maryland and Virginia especially, was soon worn out by tobacco crops.

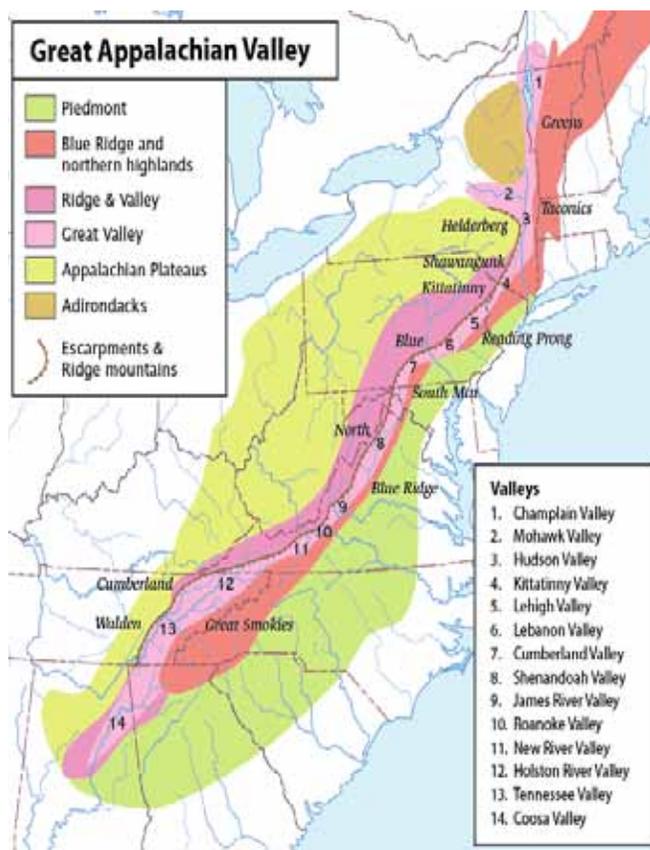
The western edge of the Tidewater is the Fall Line, the point at which geographical features such as falls or rapids prevent ships going farther upstream. Beyond the fall line is the Piedmont region, the rolling foothills of the mountains. The Piedmont is quite narrow at the northern end and stretches to a width of about 300 miles in North Carolina.

The Piedmont rises gently to the third area, the Blue Ridge Mountains, the eastern range of the Appalachians. Running from Pennsylvania to Georgia, the Blue Ridge are the oldest of all the mountains. West of the Blue Ridge Mountains is the Valley and Ridge section, which consists of a series of deep narrow valleys up against the ridge of the Allegheny Mountains, a major impediment to western expansion. The Great Valley of the Appalachians stretches from New York to Alabama; in Virginia it is called Shenandoah.

The Allegheny Escarpment separates the Ridge and Valley region from the Appalachian Plateau, a series of narrow valleys and ridges stretching from New York to Alabama. Only a small part of southwest Virginia is part of the Appalachian Plateau but it stretches westward to incorporate West Virginia and Kentucky. The rugged Appalachian Plateau gives the appearance of mountains

but is an eroded plateau.

The Appalachians stretch about 1,500 miles with few natural passes, effectively blocking movement to the west. In areas where there was a route through or around the mountains hostile Indian tribes held the would-be migrants at bay. This natural barrier hindered English colonial migration into the interior of North America for nearly 150 years, but by 1750 fur traders, hunters, and land speculators were exploring present day Kentucky and Tennessee and bringing home stories of fertile land and hunting grounds to the west.



Great Valley Map

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Kings Highway

Early colonists travelled primarily by water. Ships could sail upriver to ports or to individual wharfs so the waterways and crude local roads met their needs. In the 1650s King Charles II wanted a road to connect the colonies for communication so the Boston Post Road and other small local roads were connected to form the King's Highway, a continuous road from Boston, Massachusetts, to Charleston, South Carolina by 1735.

Fall Line Road

The Fall Line Road connected towns built up at the

fall line of the rivers; many of those towns were the seats of county government. By 1735 the road cut off from the King's Highway at Fredericksburg and went south following the fall line to Augusta, Georgia. It was the first interior route in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and eventually on into Georgia, running parallel to, and between, the King's Highway and the Upper road.

In 1738 the Virginia Assembly passed an act to encourage the settlement of the lands in "Southside" Virginia.

That all and every person and persons whatsoever, who, within ten years next after the passage of this act, shall import themselves into this Colony, and settle upon Roanoke river aforesaid, on the south branch of the same . . . including all the lands on all the said branches, and the lands lying between them, now deemed to be in the County of Brunswick, and parish of St. Andrew, shall be exempted from the payment of public, county, and parish levies, until the expiration of the said ten years . . .³

The act was later amended to include naturalization to alien settlers as well as the tax incentive. It provided additional benefits for Virginians; moving the settlers to the frontier provided a buffer between them and the hostile Indians. To access these new lands, as well as those becoming available in North Carolina, better roads were needed into the interior of Virginia and North Carolina.

The Upper Road

As the Tidewater Region of Virginia became heavily settled, colonists began using parts of the Occaneechi Path, an Indian trading path, to the interior of Virginia and the Carolinas. By 1748 it was a wagon road parallel to the Fall Line Road, but about sixty miles further west.

The Earl of Granville had a one-eighth share in the Province of Carolina. He gave up his role in governing the colony in order to keep title to the land in 1729.⁴ In 1742 his interests in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia were consolidated into one strip of land, about sixty miles deep, running across the top half of North Carolina, called the Granville District. Beginnings in the 1740s land grants were issued (sold) in the Granville District.

A group of Moravians purchased nearly 100,000 acres in the Granville District which they called Wachovia. A settlement was established that eventually

became modern day Winston-Salem.⁵ Many of the Moravians used the Carolina Road to travel to their new settlement from Pennsylvania. Bishop John Frederick Reichel kept a journal of his trip. He reported the group was robbed at Noland's Ferry, on a northern branch of the road, saying, "this neighborhood is far-famed for robbery and theft."⁶

In the Virginia Assembly in 1742 travelers on the Upper Road were described as:

divers vagrant people peddling and selling horses; and either buy or steal a great number of cattle which in their return they drive through the frontier counties; and often take away with them the cattle of the inhabitants under pretense that they cannot separate them from their own droves.⁷

Conditions like these led to another name for the road, Rogue's Road. In the 1740s the Upper Road became the primary corridor funneling settlers from Pennsylvania to the settlements in the Carolina backcountry.

Warriors Path and the Great Valley Road

Virginia Governor Spotswood with his Knights of the Golden Horseshoe climbed to the ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1716 and looked out over the Shenandoah Valley. They descended into the valley to the banks of the Shenandoah River and buried a bottle with a claim to the land.⁸ Along the banks of the Shenandoah River they found a trail, Athawomineethe, the Great Warriors Path, part of a system of Indian trails. This main branch ran north and south through the Shenandoah Valley, extending from New York into Tennessee. The Warriors Path would become the Great Valley Road, the most heavily traveled road in colonial America - the main road for settlement into the southern colonies.

The Second Treaty of Albany (1722) between Governor Spotswood, the Governors of New York and Pennsylvania, and the chiefs of the Five Nations, stated that the Indians would stay west of the Blue Ridge and stop warring with Virginia tribes. It also guaranteed use of the valley trail to the Indians. But thousands of immigrants were pouring into the colonies, especially Pennsylvania, the favored destination for German and Scots-Irish immigrants. As land became scarce the new settlers were pushed west and eventually began travelling the path to Maryland and Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, looking for land.

Colonists began crossing the Blue Ridge and settling in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1730s and the Iroquois objected. In separate agreements the Six-Nations gave

up their right to any land in Maryland and promised not to side with the French in the future.⁹ By agreeing to the Treaty of Lancaster in 1744 the Six-Nations relinquished their rights to "all the Land in the said Colony of Virginia".¹⁰ Disputes over the actual meaning of the agreement caused continued fighting between settlers and Indians. But the Indians did, at least, give control of the Warrior's Path to the colonists.

Westward expansion was now possible. The Warriors Path became the Great Wagon Road. Ferries were situated at river crossings. After 1750, the road forked at Big Lick (Roanoke). The eastern fork passed through the Roanoke River Gap to the east side of the Blue Ridge and extended to the Yadkin River in North Carolina. The other fork travelled southwest to East Tennessee and the Clinch, Holston and Powell River Valley settlements. By 1775, the road stretched 700 miles.

Pioneer Road

This first direct road west to the valley ran from Alexandria to Winchester, the most western town in Virginia, through Ashby's Gap. Before 1746 wagons traveling from the Chesapeake area to the Shenandoah Valley had to go first to Philadelphia by boat; there was no way through the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Pioneer Road was the most direct route; as a result Alexandria became a more popular port than Philadelphia for Scots-Irish immigrants.

Wilderness Road

For over a century the colonists were trapped between the Atlantic and the Appalachians. The growing population was pushing to the west, looking for safe routes to new lands. In 1749 the Loyal Land Company was granted 800,000 acres west of the Blue Ridge, in present day Kentucky. They were given four years to survey the grant.

At a Council held July the Twelfth [sic] 1749 On the Petition of John Lewis Esqr, Thomas Walker, John Meriwether, Charles Lewis, James Power, Peter Jefferson, Charles Dick, Charles Barrett, Joshua Fry, Thomas Turpin, John Harvey, Thomas Meriweather, Thomas Meriwether junr[,] John Baylor, Samuel Waddy, Robert Barrett, Henry Willis, Peachy Gilmer, John Lewis, James Maury, Thomas Lewis, Peter Hedgeman, John Moore, Robert Martin, Henry Tate, Richard Jones, William Wood, Samuel Dalton, Francis Thornton, Francis Thornton junr, John Thornton, John Pierce, William Stevenson, Nicholas Lewis, Lewis Humphry Hill and

John Dixon, Leave is given them to take up and survey Eight Hundred Thousand Acres of Land in one or more Surveys, beginning on the Bounds between this Colony and North Carolina, and running to the Westward and to the North so as to include the said Quantity, and they are allowed four Years Time to survey and pay Rights for the same, upon Return of the Plans to the Secretary's Office.¹¹



The Cumberland Gap

The Wilderness Road to Kentucky by Wm. Allen Pusey A.:L, M.D.

In 1750 Thomas Walker, one of the incorporators of the company, led an expedition to survey the land. They traveled the Wagon Road south, and then followed an Indian trail through the mountains to Tennessee where they “discovered” a mountain pass. Walker called it the Cumberland Gap, in honor of the Duke of Cumberland, son of King George II. They proceeded on into central Kentucky, erected a cabin to stake a claim, and returned by way of present-day southern West Virginia.

On the North side of the Gap is a large Spring, which falls very fast, and just above the Spring is a small Entrance to a large Cave, which the Spring runs through, and there is a constant Stream of Cool air issuing out. The Spring is sufficient to turn a Mill. Just at the foot of the Hill is a Laurel Thicket, and the Spring Water runs through it. On the South side is a plain Indian Road, on the top of the

Ridge are Laurel Trees marked with crosses, others Blazed and several Figures on them. As I went down on the Other Side, I soon came to some Laurel in the head of a Branch. A Beech stands on the left hand, on which I cut my name. This Gap may be seen at a considerable distance . . . The Mountain on the North Side of the Gap is very Steep and Rocky, but on the South it is not So. We called it Steep Ridge.¹²

John Finley stumbled upon the Blue Grass region of Kentucky in the early 1750s while trading with the Shawnees. He found that their trail led from the Ohio River straight to the Cumberland Gap. Indians had long used the gap through the mountains. The trail led on into the Tennessee and the Carolinas, another branch of the Warriors Path. This area of Kentucky was not home to Indians, but rather a favorite hunting ground, especially for the Shawnee and Cherokee.

The French and Indian War halted the push into Western Virginia and Kentucky. Many Indian tribes joined with the French to stop British expansion to the west. The Shawnees were France's main ally while the British carried favor with the Cherokees, who eventually turned against them. “All the frontiers of Virginia have been reduced to one universal waste by the burning, murdering, and scalping committed by the Indians,” reported Lewis Evans in 1755.¹³ Many settlers retreated east of the mountains for safety. Finally, in 1758, General John Forbes took Fort Duquesne from the French, stopping their expansion into the Appalachians.

The British gained the French Territory in North America as a result of the war, but King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763, once again restricting migration west of the Appalachians.

We do further declare it to be Our Royal Will and Pleasure, for the present as aforesaid, to reserve under our Sovereignty, Protection, and Dominion, for the use of the said Indians, all the Lands and Territories not included within the Limits of Our said Three new Governments, or within the Limits of the Territory granted to the Hudson's Bay Company, as also all the Lands and Territories lying to the Westward of the Sources of the Rivers which fall into the Sea from the West and North West as aforesaid.¹⁴

Colonists were prohibited from purchasing land from the Indians and any settler living on these lands



The Wilderness Road at Broadhead, Kentucky

The Wilderness Road to Kentucky by Wm. Allen Pusey A.:L, M.D.

was to leave. These restrictions upset settlers and land speculators alike. The Loyal Company, along with the Greenbrier and Ohio companies, helped push through a series of treaties that moved the line west. These agreements gave the British control over present-day West Virginia and Kentucky, with the south fork of the Holston River as the southern boundary.

And then, in 1774, Lord Dunmore's War and the victory at the Battle of Point Pleasant forced the Indians to give up their hunting rights in the area, agree to allow traffic on the Ohio River, and to recognize the river as the southern boundary of Indian lands.

That Dark and Bloody Ground and the Wilderness Road¹⁵

In 1768 Daniel Boone, John Finley, and several other men left North Carolina to travel through the Cumberland Gap, to the land beyond. Boone wrote "I had gained the summit of a commanding ridge and looking around with astonishing delight, beheld the ample plains, the beauteous tracts below."¹⁶ On another trip Boone spent about two years in the area. In 1773, with a group that included his family, he set out for Kentucky. His settlement plans were abandoned following the death of his son James in an Indian attack.

In 1775 the Transylvania Land Company obtained a large portion of Kentucky and Tennessee from the Cherokee Indians through a questionable land purchase, the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals. Richard Henderson,

representative for the company, hired Daniel Boone to clear a trail to the land in Tennessee and Kentucky. Boone and a group of thirty men hacked a rough road through the Cumberland Gap, and on into Kentucky where they established Boonesborough. Stories of the land and abundance of game lured settlers along the Great Valley Road to Fort Chiswell, then west along the Wilderness Road to the Cumberland Gap in ever increasing numbers. Henderson had hoped for "Transylvania" to become a colony, but it became a Virginia county instead.

During the Revolutionary War the Indians, who resented the sale of the land, used the war as a means to get rid of the settlers. They aligned themselves with the British, who armed the Indians. Fighting was fierce and bloody on the frontier, and many settlers were casualties. While the war slowed the trail of settlers west it did not stop them entirely.

From the founding of Boonesborough until the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, the population in Kentucky increased from about 300 to 12,000. By 1790 it was more than 70,000.¹⁷ Approximately 200,000 to 300,000 people passed through Virginia on their way to the Cumberland Gap and Kentucky. Kentucky achieved statehood in 1792, and the stream of settlers increased even more.

Although some settlers traveled down the Ohio River, the Wilderness Road was the favored route, until General Anthony Wayne's victory over the Shawnee at

Fallen Timbers in 1794 made other routes to the west safe. After statehood Kentucky planned to broaden the path through the Cumberland Gap into a wagon road and Daniel Boone asked to be put in charge of the new road.

While the Wilderness Road diverted many of the settlers travelling the Great Valley Road for some time, the road would resume its importance in the years following the American Revolution. As the newly independent United States of America continued to grow, possessing land by treaty and war, all of the earlier routes extended into the new territories. In the Northern States, once it was safe to travel settlers poured into the Old Northwest, either purchasing land from the new government, or receiving Bounty Land awarded for military service. At the same time settlers from the south moved north and west into Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois or southwest to Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama.

It is important to remember that our ancestors often tarried along their route, sometimes staying for long periods of time. Many of the children and grandchildren of those early settlers lived long enough to be recorded in the United States Census which asked where they were born, and later where their parents were born. One can often trace the path of ancestors by looking at the birthplaces of the children, and their parents. Look at what was happening in the areas your ancestor came from or migrated to. Was new land available? Why? Were they part of a religious group settlement like the Moravians in North Carolina? Look for repositories along the routes and read local histories to find out what was happening in the area. There are also published accounts of travel along the main migration routes; many can be found online.

Most of these routes still exist in some form. Many are now interstates highways, but older roads run nearby and are wonderful to travel. In some areas traces of the original paths still exist. Not only is the countryside beautiful, you will get a new appreciation of the courage and conviction of your ancestors as they travelled to start new lives.

When I stood at the Cumberland Gap, I saw the buffalo, the Indian, the fur trader and hunter, the cattle-raiser, the pioneer farmer – I saw my ancestors.

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Colonial Migration Routes



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Judith Beaman Scott

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. King's Highway | 6. Pioneer Road |
| 2. Fall Line Road | 7. Braddock's Road |
| 3. Upper Road | 8. Forbes Road |
| 4. Great Wagon Road | 9. Kanawha Trace |
| 5. Wilderness Road | 10. Albany Post Road |
- Map made using Family Atlas by RootsMagic, Inc.

The Long Trek Westward: Migration from New England to New York and the Midwest

Liz Loveland

As executor, the adult children's stepmother, Orilla Widger Danforth, was responsible for proving to the Surrogate's Court that she had done her best to notify them that their father's estate was being probated in 1884 in New York.¹ One document partially reads:

"... Mathew Danforth, whose last known residence is Bay City, Mich., and Lydia Ann Oranger, whose residence is unknown, heirs and next of kin of Marshal Danforth ..."²

While a modern reader may initially suspect that this reflects one family's dynamics, the period after the Civil War was an especially unsettled internal period in American history, with many individuals and families moving frequently. Relatives they left behind may not have known their current whereabouts, or may not have realized that their location information was out of date.

Orilla's stepson Mathew Danforth had enlisted in the Union Army on 14 December 1861.³ Hospitalized in Philadelphia, he had gone absent without leave from the hospital and had apparently returned to his Oswego County, New York, home.⁴ There is no record of him being court-martialed for this despite a large portion of Union Army court-martials being for desertion; perhaps he had been shown leniency because he had been injured and was returning to the infant he'd had with the underage girl he had married shortly before enlisting.⁵

On 24 January 1865, Mathew enlisted in the Union Navy and was assigned to the Mississippi River Squadron, the Squadron that had been involved in the Siege of Vicksburg and a number of other river campaigns.⁶ Unlike the Union Army, the Union Navy was racially integrated, and Mathew served alongside African-Americans as well as fellow whites.⁷ Serving until after the War's end, Mathew was discharged at Mound City, Illinois, and ended up settling in Michigan.⁸ It is likely that he chose a Midwestern location to settle after his Illinois discharge and then sent for his family or returned to New York himself to escort them, though to date no evidence proving this has been located. Mathew, who gradually became blind from effects of serving in the Union Navy, spent the rest of his life living in his

adopted state of Michigan.⁹

Mathew's little sister Mercena remained in Oswego County while Mathew left, returned, and left again. After the Civil War ended, Mercena married a fellow Oswego County native, Robert Veeder, and they began a family.¹⁰ Shortly they left New York for Boone County, Illinois, and by the time Orilla filed papers with the court in 1884, the Veeders had moved again to Deuel County, Dakota Territory.¹¹ They subsequently moved again, to Codington County, South Dakota, and then left the country altogether for a homestead in what is now Alberta but was then the Western Territory of the Dominion of Canada.¹² In the restless period after the Civil War, many families moved repeatedly as they sought new opportunities and/or better land.

If they wanted a model on which to base their behavior, Mathew and Mercena needed look no further than their father, Marshal Danforth, and their uncle, Jonathan Danforth, who had been born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and had left Williamstown as adults for Upstate New York, or as the Danforth genealogy tome rather delicately phrased it, "removed to the Black River country," the Black River watershed being located just east of Lake Ontario.¹³

Marshal stayed in Upstate New York the rest of his life, but Jonathan and his family moved on to Geauga County in eastern Ohio.¹⁴ By the time of the 1870 federal agricultural census, Jonathan's Ohio farm consisted of 108 improved acres and 60 acres of unimproved woodland and was valued at \$6400; he would have been very unlikely to develop that large a farm in his birth state of Massachusetts.¹⁵ Marshal and Jonathan's father Coe Danforth had two properties in 1798; one was 25 perches of land with one "Dwelling-House" and the other was 22 acres; 160 square perches form one acre.¹⁶ Additionally, Coe's properties were assessed at a lower rate than most of his neighbors who held similar amounts, suggesting the land and house were of lower quality than average.¹⁷ This is understandable for a younger man who had a young family at the time of the assessment, but much of the farmland in his hometown was owned by a small number of early settlers.¹⁸

There were many factors in the traditional “push-pull” of migration out of New England. In addition to “pull” factors such as those in the examples given thus far, there were a number of “push” factors motivating people to seek new opportunities beyond New England. While some historians have argued that New England’s system of town-based government led to much greater political equality than in the other colonies of what would become the United States, the system also meant that most farms were much smaller than elsewhere.¹⁹ The agricultural practices were also considered by some to be a “primitive agricultural economy,” arguably subsistence farming, and a large proportion of New Englanders with small farms also had at least one additional occupation to help support their families.²⁰ For example, Coe Danforth was a butcher in addition to the family having a small farm; his death record lists his occupation simply as “Butcher.”²¹ Soil nutrient depletion in many areas also led to many farms being less and less productive. The system of inheritance was not based on primogeniture as it was in many other colonial areas, so the parents could leave their farm to any child they wanted, or split it amongst multiple children. Many parents chose to leave their farm to whichever adult child cared for them when they grew elderly.

Some Tips For Researching Migrants Out of New England

- Older published genealogies of New England families often did not track people who left beyond their leaving and beyond that point in their line. Authors may also incorrectly state that the person did not have descendants, list the wrong place of settlement, or only list the person’s first stop after leaving New England.

- Many migrants from New England went to their initial settlement point with at least one relative, neighbor, or family friend, though one may have then moved on without the other person(s). If they were particularly happy where they settled, they may have later successfully encouraged people from “back home” to join them.

- For families that moved multiple times, as children grew up one or more adult child often stayed behind in a location that the rest of the family left.

- For veterans of such wars as the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War, many were discharged far from home and may have settled closer to where they were discharged than where they had previously lived. If they had already started a family their family may have joined them, or they may have

simply abandoned their first family, who might have incorrectly concluded that they died in the war. Check for pension records and bounty land patents. Many widows discovered their husband had a living previous wife to whom they were legally married at death through applying for a widow’s pension and being rejected. Many War of 1812 veterans who were still alive in the 1850’s claimed their bounty land but sold it rather than settling on it themselves, and the applications often list both the regiment in which they served and their then-current location.

- For families that moved into federal-land states/territories, check for homestead applications at the Bureau of Land Management’s General Land Office website (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Families that moved multiple times may have filed multiple applications, or children may have filed their own applications upon reaching adulthood. People often served as character witnesses for family members, family friends, and neighbors, so check the character witnesses carefully, including for the husband of a sister or of an adult daughter. Don’t limit the search to white men; others, such as white women and African-Americans, also applied for homesteads.

- Look for clues to a family’s political leanings for possible motive to moving. For example, many abolitionist New Englanders moved to Kansas in the lead-up to the Civil War in hopes of it being voted a “free state.”

- Look for manuscript materials in archive catalogs, on ArchiveGrid (<http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>), and through searching the web for privately held materials or posting queries in print journals and online seeking privately held materials. Many migrants out of New England kept in touch with at least one family member, family friend, or neighbor “back home” through letters, and someone in the family may have kept a journal.

- If there are gaps in a New England family branch’s time in New England, look for people that moved to the Midwest and then changed their mind. Some were miserable where they moved and returned to New England, sometimes in just a few years. They may have filed an initial homestead application and abandoned their claim, or they may have written a journal or letters to their relatives in New England talking about how miserable they were in the Midwest. Again, some family members may have returned to New England while others stayed where they had settled or moved on to a new location.

- If a person or family suddenly disappears from American records, consider the possibility that they moved to newly “opened” homestead lands over the border in Canada.

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(Endnotes)

1. “Widger” is listed on Orilla’s death record; Central Square, New York, vital records, No. 296, Orilla Widger Danforth; Town of Hastings Clerk’s Office, Hastings, New York; scanned by Town of Hastings Clerk Shelley Bombardo and emailed to author on 2 August 2011. While it seems likely it is her maiden name, towns in Oswego County weren’t keeping marriage records when she married and her obituary, attributed to a pastor, does not mention her maiden name or birth family (*Oswego Daily Times*, a late May 1891 issue; digital image, *Fulton History* [<http://www.fultonhistory.com> : accessed 31 July 2011]; image does not include exact date or page number).
2. Loose paper dated 30 September 1884, Oswego County Probate Records, Marshal Danforth probate file; Oswego County Surrogate’s Court, Oswego, New York. The probate docket (vol. P, pp. 189-90) only lists heirs named in the will.
3. Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR) of Private Matthew C. Danforth, Co. D, 81st New York Infantry; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C.
4. Mathew Danforth is listed as “absent” on his Hospital Muster Roll and listed on a Company Muster Roll as having deserted from the hospital on 19 July 1862; CMSR of Matthew C. Danforth, Co. D, 81st NY Infantry; NARA. The 1865 Palermo, New York, register of men serving in the Civil War lists Mathew’s residence as Palermo; “Record of the Town of Palermo, County of Oswego,” Mathew C. Danforth entry, p. 5 (written); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 4 April 2013), citing New York State Archives, collection # (N-Ar)13774, box 44, roll 25. The register lists Mathew’s Army desertion but not his Navy enlistment; it is unclear whether it was compiled in January 1865 or whether it was compiled later in 1865 but the clerk did not know Mathew had re-enlisted.
5. Jill D’Andrea of NARA checked NARA’s Union Army court-martial lists and did not find a matching soldier; email from Jill D’Andrea to author, 18 June 2013. Questionnaire forms, “Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans,” certificate # 18816 (Mathew C. Danforth); digital images, *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 19 June 2013), citing NARA microfiche publication M1469, fiche # 18078.
6. “Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans,” certificate # 18816 (Mathew C. Danforth); digital images, *Fold3*. Joseph P. Reidy, “Black Men in Navy Blue During the Civil War,” *Prologue Magazine*, 33:3 (fall 2001); digitized at *Prologue Magazine* (<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2001/fall/black-sailors-1.html> : accessed 5 September 2013).
7. Reidy, “Black Men in Navy Blue,” *Prologue Magazine*.
8. “Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans,” certificate # 18816 (Mathew C. Danforth); digital images, *Fold3*.
9. “Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Civil War and Later Navy Veterans,” certificate # 18816 (Mathew C. Danforth); digital images, *Fold3*. U. S. Congress, *Matthew C. Danforth*, 58th Cong., 3rd sess., Senate Report No. 3427 (Washington, D.C.: publisher not stated, 1905); digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 19 June 2013). State of Michigan Certificate of Death, Shiawassee County, Middlebury Township, 1917, Registered No. 3 (Mathew C. Danforth); digital image, *Seeking Michigan* (<http://seekingmichigan.org> : accessed 27 June 2013).
10. Mercena and Robert’s marriage is listed as occurring in October 1868 in Robert’s obituary, consistent with known children’s births; “Robert N. Veeder,” reprinted in *Along the Crocus Trail: A History of Daysland and Districts* (Alberta: The Daysland History Book Society, 1982), citing *Daysland Press*, 18 March 1909 issue. Towns in Oswego County, New York, were not keeping marriage records yet when the marriage occurred. 1870 U. S. census, Oswego County, New York, population schedule, Hastings Center Post Office, p. 31 (written), dwelling 279, family 287, Veeders; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 June 2010), citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll not specified.
11. See, for example, 1880 U. S. census, Boone County, Illinois, population schedule, Belvidere Ward 2, enumeration district 3, p. 15; dwelling 168, family 188, Veeders; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 June 2010), citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll not specified. Also, see Boone County, Illinois, birth certificate no. 522 (1881), Neva Bell Veeder; Boone County Clerk and Recorder, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois. Oswego County Probate Records, Marshal Danforth probate file; Oswego Co. Surrogate’s Court, Oswego, NY.
12. 1900 U. S. census, Codington County, South Dakota, population schedule, enumeration district 105, p. 3A, dwelling 38, family 38, the Veeders; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 June 2010), citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll not specified. “Application for a Homestead Entry,” Application No. 14467 (Robert N. Veeder); Provincial Archives of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.
13. John Joseph May, *Danforth Genealogy: Nicholas Danforth*

of Framlingham, England, and Cambridge, N. E. (1589-1638) and William Danforth, of Newbury, Mass. (1640-1721) and Their Descendants (Boston: Charles H. Pope, 1902), p. 145. Jonathan's son Charles Danforth, born about 1825, self-reported a birthplace of New York; there is a Jonathan Danforth enumerated in Fort Covington, Franklin Co., NY, on the 1830 census (NARA microfilm M19, roll 90, p. 42 [written]), but as yet the author has no conclusive evidence that this is the correct Jonathan.

14. See, for example, 1840 U.S. Census, Geauga County, Ohio, Russel Township, population schedule, unpaginated (p. 9 of the Russel Twp. enumeration), line 21, Jonathan Danforth; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 August 2013), citing NARA microfilm roll 295, p. 139, image 284. Also, see Geauga County Probate Records, probate file D-74 (Jonathan Danforth); Geauga County, Ohio, Probate Court; digital images, "Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996 > Geauga," *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 26 August 2013), starting at image 777 in the unindexed file D-49 to file D-97 image set.

15. 1870 U.S. census, Geauga County, Ohio, agricultural schedule, pp. 1-2, line 7; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 August 2013), citing NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 36.

16. Williamstown Birth Register, Williamstown, Massachusetts, p. 77 (written), entry titled "Children of Coe Danforth & Clarissa his wife"; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 March 2012), citing *Massachusetts Vital and Town Records*, Holbrook Research Institute; Marshal is mis-indexed as "Martha C. Danforth." Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax, vol. 20, p. 660; line 1, Coe Danforth of Williamstown; digital image, *American Ancestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org> : accessed 5 September 2013), citing original manuscript "Direct tax list of 1798 for Massachusetts and Maine, 1798," held by New England Historic Genealogical Society Library, Boston, Massachusetts. Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax, vol. 20, p. 682; line 25, Coe Danforth of Williamstown; digital image, *American Ancestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org> : accessed 5 September 2013). E. Wade Hone, *Land & Property Research in the United States* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1997), p. 63.

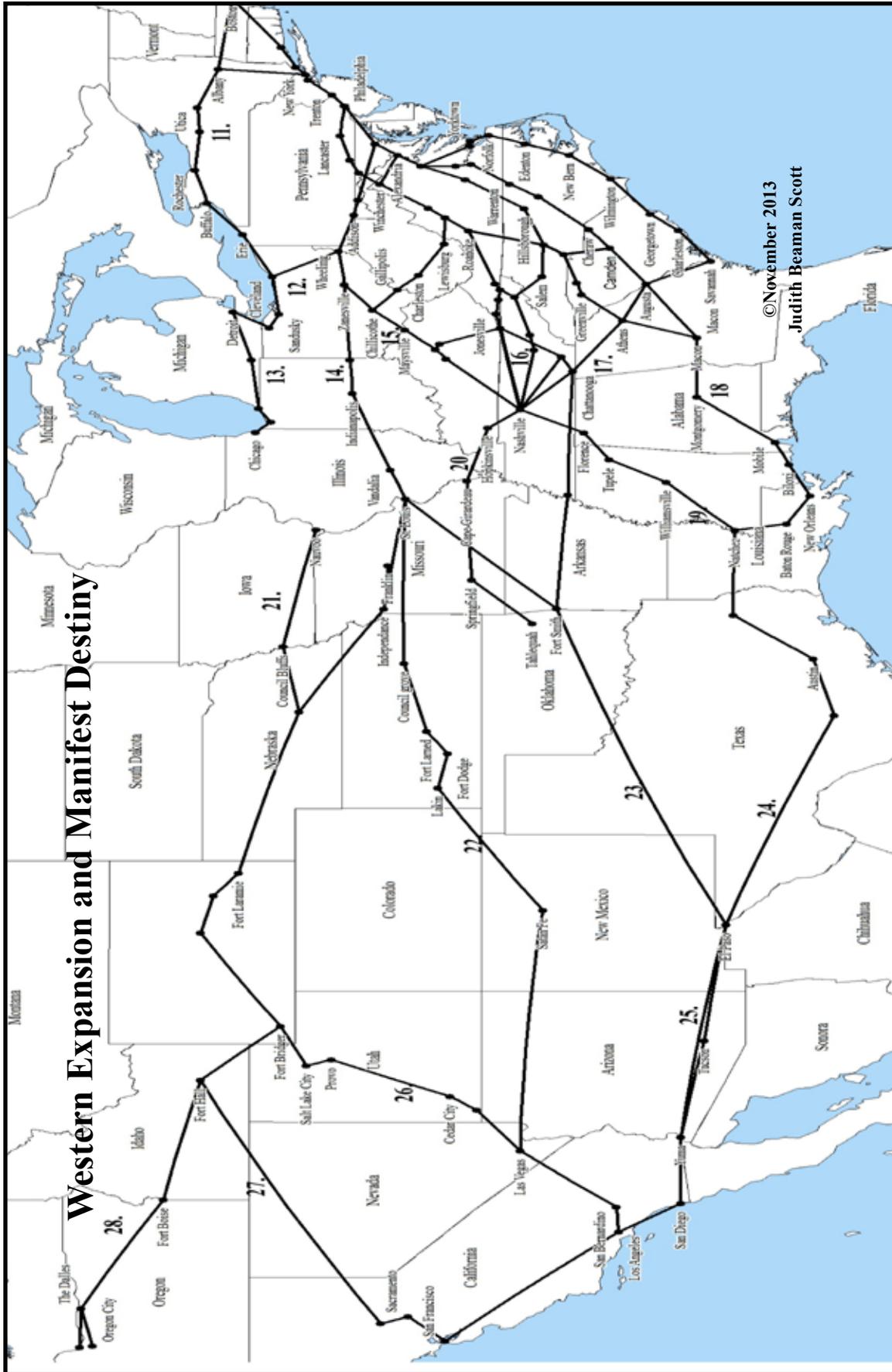
17. Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax, vol. 20, pp. 657-69; digital images, *American Ancestors*; a number of others with the same amount of property on this list were assessed for six or more times the tax. Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax, vol. 20, pp. 675-706; digital images, *American Ancestors*.

18. In 1800 Coe and his wife were enumerated as 16-25 with one child; 1800 U. S. census, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, Town of Williamstown, unpaginated, Coe Danforth household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 January 2012), citing NARA microfilm publication M32, roll not specified. Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax, vol. 20, pp. 675-706; digital images, *American Ancestors*.

19. See, for example, Barry Levy, *Town Born: The Political Economy of New England from Its Founding to the Revolution* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009).

20. In Nora Galvin's lecture "Where Have All the People Gone: Migration out of Connecticut before 1850," given at the Annual Meeting of the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists on 5 November 2011, she used the phrase "primitive agricultural economy"; handout and notes in author's files.

21. May, *Danforth Genealogy*, p. 145. 1850 Massachusetts State Return of Williamstown Deaths; line 26, Cowe Danforth; digital image, *American Ancestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org> : accessed 18 January 2012), citing vol. 48, p. 49, of original records held by the Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, Massachusetts.



- 11. Genesee Road
 - 12. Cleveland Road
 - 13. Chicago Road
 - 14. National Road
 - 15. Zane's Trace
 - 16. Avery's Trace
 - 17. Georgia Trace
 - 18. Federal Road
 - 19. Natchez Trace
 - 20. Trail of Tears
 - 21. Mormon Trail
 - 22. Santa Fe Trail
 - 23. Butterfield Overland Road
 - 24. Lower Emigrant Trail
 - 25. Gila Trail
 - 26. Mormon Trail to California
 - 27. California Trail
 - 28. Oregon Trail
- Map made using Family Atlas by RootsMagic, Inc.

The Oregon Trail: Finding Your Family Story

Peggy R. Baldwin

Introduction

For most of us, moving to a new place we have never seen and traveling mostly by foot for 2000 miles is unthinkable. Even for those who had relatively easy Oregon Trail trips, the fact that they did it, attests to tenacity and fortitude. River crossings were dangerous and tedious and sometimes the same river had to be crossed more than once. In a previous GFO Bulletin article I explored the reasons people might have traveled the trail — economic, health, promise, free land, and adventure.¹ One pioneer said his reason was, “because the thing wasn’t fenced in and nobody dared to keep me off.”² Only tough, resilient people would do well on the Oregon Trail, with all of its difficulties. So in a broad way, we know who our ancestors were and what their experience was, but we don’t know what it was like for them, day by day, traveling the Oregon Trail. By studying maps, journals, and books written about the Oregon Trail we can reassemble the experience of our ancestors, and if they wrote a journal or are mentioned in someone else’s journal we might get an insight into their personalities.

Beginner’s Luck — Peek family 1847

I checked a book out of the Multnomah County Library — *The Oskaloosa Company: Last Wagon Train to Skinner’s in 1847* by Charles George Davis. Maybe my Peek family, who arrived in Oregon in October 1847, would be mentioned in this book. I eagerly turned to the index and saw “Peak, Abe 62, 82, 83.” And this is what I read:

They formed a wagon train under Lester Hulin, they left St Joseph, crossing the Missouri River into Kansas at Elizabethtown, the last week of May 1847. Collecting people along the way, The Oskalooska Company grew in number to about eighty-one wagons. They soon discovered that it took too much time for all of these wagons to get in camp at night out in the morning, and too long to coral the wagons if Indians attacked. The Oskaloosa Company camped in two camp grounds some seventy miles west of St Joseph. They picked up the pilot Lester Hulin, the evening of May 31, 1847. About forty-one wagons formed a

separate Company, with Mr. McKee captain. He was with Davis in the Oskaloosa Company. Those leaving the Oskaloosa Company included Cooper, Fullison, Read (Reak), Cline, McKee, and the Abe Peak families.”³

Much of the Davis book was taken from *The Overland Journey to Oregon* by P. W. Crawford. Crawford was a bullwacker, hired by the Davis family, to drive a team of oxen. Crawford’s book was the uncensored version, with a much juicier story, including the following (odd punctuation, spelling, and spaces left in):

Off again for Fort Bridger which is in California—to avoid the long drive on Sublets Cutoff—camp on a small creek waters of green River next day Roll on amongst Rolling hills firm natural roads track very plain showing that a good deal of travel have been ahead of us camp at [Black Forks] a considerable stream of waters of green River and the tributary of which Fort Bridger is on so our guide says here an altercation takes place Between Father + Son Abe Peak and his Father one gets a broad ax and the other a Knife and threatened to be a very bad conflict But they are parted—and Shamed out of their quarrel old grand mother Peak looks on the affair with disgust Mrs Peak sin [sic] is a large portly woman also discountenances the affair and so does most of the camp but men gets out of Patience Especially those of nervous temperament. We are now reduced to Clines four wagons Peaks two wagons Kimbles two wagons Reads two wagons hills one wagon all other have taken the cutoff next day arrive at Fort Bridger July 25, 1847 July 26 Rested and wased up clothing and visited Bridger his little store his aids and Employees⁴

This was clearly beginner’s luck — finding two books that mention my family, laying out their Oregon Trail travels on my first try. Between these two books I

mapped their travel and would attach the story as seen through Crawford's eyes to each the points that they visited. I had to remember that Crawford did not write the details of this trip down for thirty years. He may have had a brief entry noted during the trip, but the details had to come from memory. Some of those memories must have been vibrant, like the one about the fight between Abraham and his father James, but errors might also have been introduced by the lapse of time.

Starting with a Diary — Southworth family, 1853

James Southworth left behind a journal. No one knows the whereabouts of the original copy written in pencil. A typescript has been passed down and that at least has allowed me to map his family's journey. The language of this uneducated man was too polished and the spelling too good, causing me to wonder if the person who transcribed the journal did some "correcting." This family would not have grammar and spelling this good for generations. Nevertheless, the diary is a record of the Southworth family trip, with locations and brief notes about what happened.

James Southworth noted by date the rivers crossed, the number of miles covered, where good water was found, where "poisonous" water was found, where grass was available to feed their animals, the weather, and blessed few personal details and very little about the sights seen and the difficulties encountered. His diary does serve well to map the family's trail; a good start to determining what their experience might have been. I could certainly map the family's trip by date and location.

Mapping the Southworth trip

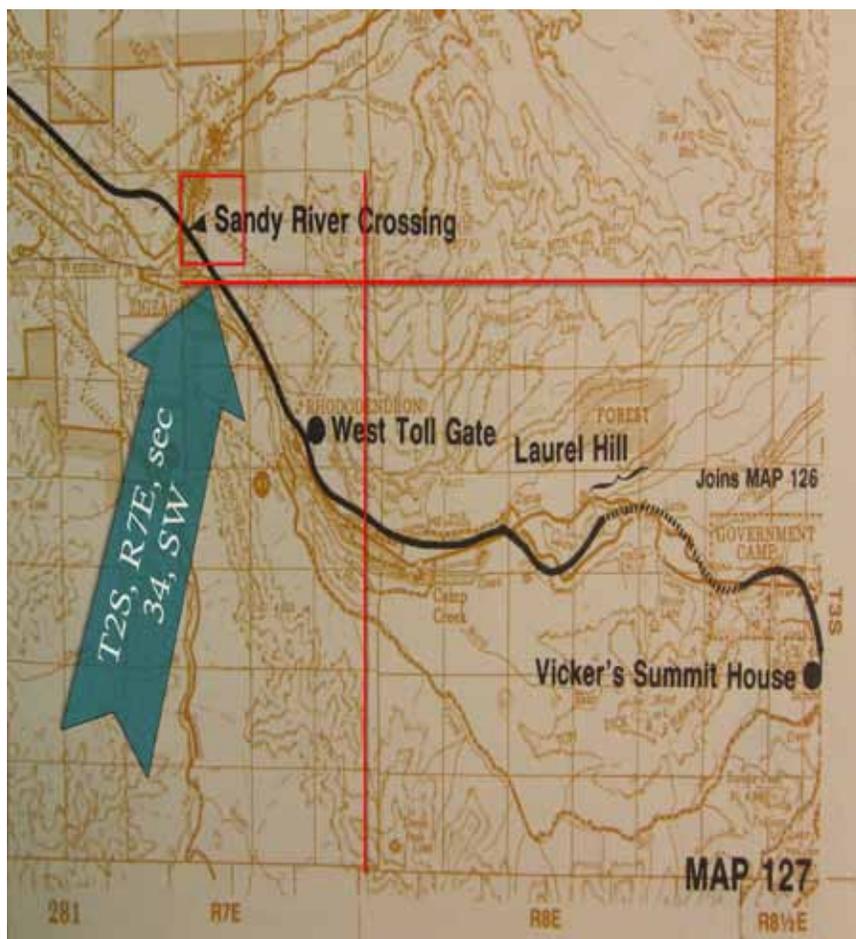
Mapping the Southworth trip was time consuming, but fruitful. Part of the problem is there is not just one Oregon Trail. On the prairies, wagon trains spread out, trying to stay out of each other's dust. And, there were numerous cutoffs from the Trail, where people did their best to make the trip easier or quicker. There were numerous crossings to some rivers, which might be different at a particular time, due to the water levels, or the preference of the wagon train passing. In addition to the number of variations in the Trail, there could be more than one name for a particular place and/or the spelling of the name

the pioneer used might make it difficult to find. For example, Southworth talked about crossing a river on 23 April 1853 called the Caw, but the spelling was Kaw, and the river is now called the Kansas River. I was able to overcome these difficulties and produce a map of the Southworth Oregon Trail trip with the following steps:

1. I started by making a spreadsheet with columns for location, date, and comments made by Southworth.

2. Then by consulting the book *Maps of the Oregon Trail* by Gregory M Franzwa, I was able to find the township and range for Southworth's travels. I added a column for the page numbers that I found referring to the location James Southworth mentioned and township & range from the individual map pages.⁵

3. And, from there I was able to convert the township and range to an approximation of the GPS locations using the Earthpoint website — <http://www.earthpoint.us/TownshipsSearchByDescription.aspx>. I added a column to the spreadsheet for GPS coordinates. My spreadsheet was now a complete record of everything I know about the locations that the Southworth family passed through.⁶



Step 2 Franzwa map book

4. I used the software Family Atlas to put the GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates on a map, where I could add whatever labels — location names and dates — I desired.⁷

5. I also used the iTouchmap.com web site, where I could locate a spot on a map and click in that spot to get GPS coordinates — <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

6. Export Family Atlas map to Google Earth, to see the map in a satellite view.

Here’s an example:

Step 1: Diary — Saturday, the 29th. Left camp at seven of the clock A.M. Crossed Sandy seven miles from camp last night.”

Step 2: Franzwa map book (red markings and arrow added for emphasis) – T2S, R7E, sec 34, SW, Willamette Meridian (Township & Range)

Step 3: GPS coordinated from Earthpoint — 45.3461721, -121.9427422

Earth Point Tools for Google Earth [Sign In / Buy Subscription](#) [Contact](#)

Township and Range - Search By Description.

A user account is **not** needed for the features on this web page.

Enter Township and Range. Optionally enter Section. Google Earth flies you there using BLM data. Hint: pause for a moment after choosing each of the criteria. This allows the data to be loaded into the drop-down boxes.

State: Oregon
Principal Meridian: Willamette
Township: 002 S
Range: 007 E
Section: 034

[View](#) [Fly To On Google Earth](#)

Free. User account is not needed.

If you want to see the surrounding townships, then once you have clicked the "Fly To" button, come back and click the BLM or National Atlas "View on Google Earth" button. Free. User account is not needed.

Township - BLM database		Section - BLM database	
Township	T2S R7E	Section	S34 T2S R7E
Meridian	Willamette	Meridian	Willamette
State	Oregon	State	Oregon
Source	USFS	Source	USFS
Calculated Values		Calculated Values	
Acres	22,448	Acres	631
Centroid	45.3889824, -121.9434476	Centroid	45.3534874, -121.9327756
Corners	NW45.4327181, -122.0042709	Corners	NW45.3608480, -121.9429392
	NE 45.4311266, -121.8820143		NE 45.3607110, -121.9227559
	SE 45.3447829, -121.8813223		SE 45.3462259, -121.9225068
	SW45.3461763, -122.0044100		SW45.3461721, -121.9427422
For illustration only. User to verify all		Quarters	This section has 16

Step 3
Earth Point



Step 4: Family Atlas map showing Sandy River crossing.



Family Atlas map showing the entire Southworth Oregon Trail route



Step 5: Google Earth map

Notice that the label for the Sandy River is a bit off from the river, which appears near the top of the page. This illustrates that using a township and range only approximates the actual GPS location.

Telling the Story with the Diaries of Others

I was lucky enough to have a family line mentioned in someone else's journal and another line in which, although it's a bit terse, my ancestor kept his own diary. What if you don't have that? If your ancestor had an Oregon Donation Land Claim, his arrival date is probably in that document. If your ancestor did not have an Oregon Donation Land Claim there are other ways to find year of arrival. One of the best is Stefenie Flora's website *The Oregon Territory and Its Pioneers* — http://genealogytrails.com/ore/linn/misc/oregon-trail/1853/1853inregis_3.html. This website has a page for each year of the Oregon Trail with lists of who arrived in that particular year. Also notice that this website has transcripts of Trail diaries. Who knows, you might be lucky, as I was, and find your ancestor mentioned in one.

Another source of information about trail diaries is the Oregon-California Trail Association (OCTA) database *Paper Trails* (<http://www.paper-trail.org/>). OCTA members have surveyed many libraries and archives for the diaries they contain and recorded people mentioned in diaries and the location of the diary. This

database can be searched for free, but if you want full information you need to purchase a subscription for at least 24 hours at \$10.95.

Searching the Paper Trails database, I do find the "Peak" family listed in this database, referring to the same two books I discovered by chance. The only Southworth "family member" mentioned in this database was Lou Southworth, James's slave. But, even if the family is not discussed in any 1853 diary, certainly I could read any of the diaries from that year for hints of what James and his family experienced when they traveled the Oregon Trail that year, especially if they were in a location close to the same time.

I could also consult published diaries. There are also many published diaries, which can be purchased. Note that the first one listed is available for years other than 1853 – 1854. Ones that I found for 1853 are:

1. Kenneth L. Homes, editor and compiler, *Covered Wagon Women: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails, 1853 - 1854* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1986). This is a book series, with books for other years.

2. Harold J Peters, editor, *Seven Months to Oregon:*

1853: *Diaries and Reminiscent Accounts* (Toole, Utah: The Patrice Press, 2008). An account of two Hines families — one taking the overland trail and other sailing via Panama by water. The family taking the overland trail took 7 months, versus the 5 months the Southworths took. It would be interesting to see why they took an additional two months.

3. Donald Lee Clark, *Traveling with the Oregon Trail Pioneers of 1853: Taken from 156 Diaries, Journals, Reminiscences, etc. Of 1853* (Middleton, Idaho: CHJ Publishing, 2002).

James Southworth's diary is very terse, containing entries like "Mary Pioneer was born at seven of the o'clock." Mary Pioneer was his daughter, born three weeks into their travels. No mention was made of Catherine, his wife and baby's mother, who must have left on this 2000 mile walk 8 months pregnant. With as much emphasis as that given to the birth of his daughter, a couple of weeks later his diary contains the entry "Brownie had a calf, six miles east of the big Sandy."

On August 19th James's entry was, "Left camp at Sun up. Passed Laurel Hill, thence to Zig Zag, two miles, thence to Sandy four miles. Here we killed five fish of the largest size, say twenty pounds, mountain trout. Rained." Others would say that Laurel Hill, on the Barlow Road, was probably the most difficult portion of the Oregon Trail, but James's entry would give not notice of that. From the Dinwiddie diary, when they "passed Laurel Hill" about a month after James Southworth:

Wednesday, 21st. Had muddy road for some distance. Come to the first part of Laurel Hill. Here we let part of our wagons down with ropes, snubbing around trees and stumps. A large pile of timber at the foot having been drawn down behind wagons. About one mile farther brought us to the second part of Laurel Hill. Here is some going down hill. A very steep and rocky ascent. Broke a wagon tongue which made us late. Had to leave 4 of our wagons on the side of the mountain till morning, fastening them with ropes to trees.⁸

The fact that they were two or three days away from the end of the Trail must have made these difficulties easier to deal with. One could assume that one month before, when it was also raining, the Southworths would have had a similar experience, even though James Southworth made it literally sound like a "walk in the park." Consulting other 1853 diaries would help me tell

my family story more completely, especially since James Southworth's diaries were so understated.

Conclusion

Mapping your family history and reading trail diaries from our ancestors, and the diaries of others makes your family Oregon Trail experiences come alive. You may almost feel like you have taken the trip yourself and maybe it will inspire you to actually travel the trail, writing your own diary as you go.

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(Endnotes)

1. Oregon Trail article. Peggy R Baldwin, "Oregon Trail: A Historical Phenomenon", *The Bulletin Genealogical Forum of Oregon*, September 2008, p. 2 – 7.
2. Gregory M Franza, *The Oregon Trail Revisited* (St Louis: Patrice Press, Inc, 1972). This quote was taken from the 1972 edition, but if you plan to purchase this book get the newest edition.
- 3 Charles George Davis, *The Oskaloosa Company: Last Wagon Train to Skinner's in 1847* (North Plains, Oregon: The Oskaloosa Company, 1996)
4. P W Crawford, *The Oregon Journey to Oregon in 1847: An Autobiography on the Oregon Trail*; transcribed by Charles George Davis (North Plains, Oregon: Soap Creek Enterprises, 1997, p. 17.
5. Township and range is a land measurement system that divides land up into 6 mile wide townships by 6 mile long ranges, with 36 sections in each township. Each section 1 mile by 1 mile and represents approximately 640 acres. Townships have numbers based on the the number of townships west or east of a meridian and ranges have numbers based on the number of ranges north and south of a baseline.
6. Global Positioning System is a space-based satellite navigation system. GPS was for military use in the beginning, but has been opened up to everyone as a means of finding locations. We can use GPS in our cars for navigation, but with a hand held GPS device we can location places in the field, including the locations on our ancestor's Oregon Trail travels.
7. Family Atlas is available for download and purchase from RootsMagic (www.rootsmagic.com).
8. Donald Lee Clark, *Traveling with the Oregon Trail Pioneers of 1853: Taken from 156 Diaries, Journals, Reminiscences, etc. Of 1853* (Middleton, Idaho: CHJ Publishing, 2002), p. 368. Citing: Dinwiddie Family, *Diary*, Overland from Indiana to Oregon: The Dinwiddie Journal, Judy Tullis, and The Frontier VIII.

Sketches of My Early Days As I Remember It

Mrs. Henrietta Blish Pomeroy

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Written for my children - January 1912

My father was George Blish. He was born in Bath, Maine on May 5th, 1815. My Mother's name was Irene Young and [she] was born in Williamsburg, Columbia County, Ohio.

When father was 22 years old his folks moved to Missouri, St. Louis County, seven miles from St. Louis to a farm called Gaskinade (as near as I can remember). My mother's folks lived near there and that is where my parents became acquainted and were married in 1838, May 1.

I was born February 4, 1839 at Gaskinade [Gasconade] Farm. The first I remember plainly was moving to a place where father got work in a flour mill run by a man by the name of Hawn. Father was a miller by trade.

I don't remember how long we lived there but I well remember that one of Hawn boys would bite and pinch me every chance he got. Then I remember moving from there to a place called Pin Oak. Here Grandpa Joseph Blish owned a flour mill and wanted my father to help him run it. We lived there about a year and then moved up the bluff above the mill. Grandpa owned the mill but he was a Doctor MD, so didn't do any mill work. He was also Justice of the Peace at that time.

Then in the spring of 1846, Uncle Joseph moved to Illinois and Grandpa sold the mill. I was 5 years old when we moved up on the Bluff and I would take a small pail and go down to Uncle Joe's every morning (about a half mile) to get milk. It was thru a wood and I felt rather scary but I always got through alright except once when I fell and spilled a part of the milk which grieved me much.

That summer, I don't remember the month, my Aunt and Uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Husband (Mother's sister Martha) came to visit us. It was the first time they had met us since they were married. They stayed three weeks then went on up to where Grandpa Young was living and wanted us to go with them on a visit, but Mother did not go. So Father thought he would go as he might find a place to settle.

It was forty miles to Grandpa Young's place. They went with ox team. Uncle and Aunt settled there and I guess they lived there the rest of their days.

After Father got there he took sick with cholera morbus so Uncle James Husband took the ox team and came after mother. When he got there my little brother David was sick with bold hives and she could not go. She had not seen her folks for four years, so Uncle went back the next day and brother David got worse. The hives went in on his lungs and he died the third day after Uncle was there. There was no Doctor near for him and mother did not know what to give him. Grandpa was then in St. Louis so could not get him. David was buried before Father got home, in the Greenstreet Cemetery.

Soon after Father got home he decided to go to Illinois and Grandma and Grandpa Blish came from St. Louis and said they were going too. Grandma went back to St. Louis to stay until Spring to stay with her daughter. Mrs. Henrietta Sisson came with them. Grandpa stayed with us and went to Illinois with us. That was in the fall of 1846 that we moved to Illinois, LaSalle County. We went by ox team and were on the road three or four weeks, I think. (I have to do this by memory as my folks have passed away.) Grandpa rode horseback and often rode on ahead and would pick out a good place to sleep in over night.

Before we got to the Illinois River my little brother Thomas took sick. He was troubled with chronic diarrhea and Grandpa Joseph Blish had ridden on ahead as usual to a town near where we had to cross the river and had engaged rooms for us and waited for us until nearly noon the next day. Then he got uneasy about us and came back, but he had left his medicine bag, not thinking it would be needed. So by the time he could go back and get it, night had fallen and brother Thomas was so much worse that the medicine did him no good. He died the next morning about ten o'clock. They got a casket and the next morning took him to town. There he was buried in a cemetery near the Illinois River. Thomas talked so much about crossing to the Illinois side. He was a very bright child.

We then crossed the river and camped in a Pau Pau [Paw Paw] grove and the fruit was ripe. We ate all we wanted. I remember stopping one day where a man, two daughters and a son lived. The two young women were very sick in bed and Grandpa gave them some medicine.

We bought two dozen eggs from them and had the eggs for dinner. There were five of us to eat them, our teamster was one, Grandpa, Father, Mother and me. I always remember the time because I was allowed to eat as many eggs as I wanted. There was only bread, butter and eggs to eat, and they called an egg lunch.

Another place we stopped for two or three days. I think they were acquaintances of the family for they had us eat with them. They had mutton, the first I had ever eaten.

When we got near the place where Uncle lived, Grandpa rode on a day's ride. The next morning, Father's brother Joseph Blish, came and met us. We stopped a few days with them until Father could rent a place. That was the first time I ever saw a stove. They had no fireplace but sat by the stove. It was cold at nights. It was about October.

We rented a farm not far from Uncle's place. Uncle lived in a village called Earlville and the farm Father rented belonged to Mr. Carter. We had brought two horses and two cows with us that winter. Mr. Foster the teamster, had got a job in the woods splitting rails. After working awhile he took sick and nearly died. However, by good nursing and Grandpa doctoring him, he finally got well. As soon as he was able to sit up he took a chair and placed it before the door so he sit down, rest a gun on the back and shoot some prairie chickens he saw across the road. He trembled so, he could hardly stand and begged Mother to let him have the gun. He shot two of them by taking rests in between. Mother went out and got them as he was too weak to go outside. He was tickled that he talked about it for several days just like a child.

One day in January was the coldest I ever saw. We sat by the stove all day and could hardly keep warm. I put a pan of water on the stove hearth and the side next to the fire would simmer and the side away from the fire had a thin skim of ice on it. Father did only what was necessary to tend the stock and we left the stove red hot all the time.

The next spring Father pre-empted 40 acres of prairie land and 10 acres of timber. The two pieces of land were about a mile apart. It was near Indian Creek a little town near Earlville.

We lived on the Carter place one year and three months, then settled (rented) a place, Wheeler Place it was called and was near our own land so Father would be near to build. We were there a year and then moved to our own place. I was 9 years old then and had been to school only three months, when I was seven years.

This country was new so there was no school house until I was 9. Then I started school and went two weeks

at which time scarlet fever broke out and school closed and was no more that summer.

The next spring (1849) Father went to California to the mines. He rented his place and Mother and I and two little brothers went to Ohio to visit Mother's brother Carson Young. He came for us and we went to LaSalle and went by boat to the Illinois River to St. Louis. We stopped there a week to visit uncle William and another brother of Mothers.

We got to Cincinnati, [then] we took the stage to Williamsburg where Uncle lived. I enjoyed the trip on the boats very much. All the time we were in Williamsburg I went to school and church and Sunday School. The little town was built on the Little Miami River and we used to have a great time boating on Uncle's boat. We had picnics on the little island several times. A lovely place to picnic. So many large beech trees made it a nice shady place. We used to get the long limbs and tie them together with bark and use them for a swing. The limbs drooped down.

One evening I went home from school with one of my cousins to stay all night. On our way we came to where there was a long wild grape vine growing. It had run to the top of a tree that grew on the edge of a deep gulch or ravine and someone had cut it off at the bottom. It was crooked up so one could sit on it and swing out over the gulch. We would take turns swinging. The last time I swung, I felt it give way at the top while I was swinging out and when I got back I stepped off and the whole vine came down. I came near going down in the gulch about a hundred feet. I felt it was a narrow escape.

Father sent us some money so we could go back home again. It was the last of September when we started home.

In Illinois, we rode in a wagon with one of our neighbors to Cincinnati. Stayed all night there and took the train to Cleveland and crossed Lake Erie over to Detroit and took the train again to Buffalo, then crossed Lake Michigan to Chicago. There we took a canal boat and went to LaSalle. We were in that boat about a week for we traveled slow. It began to freeze at night before we got back there. We then went to Aunt Henrietta Sissons (my father's sister) and stayed there a week and Cousin Charles Sisson took their covered hack and drove us out to Ferdinand Carter's to get Mother's things. It snowed part of the day and it got so cold we stopped at a farm house to warm up at noon and ate our lunch and fed the horses.

We got to Carter's just at dusk. They were killing hogs that day and had just got thru. One of Mrs. Carters nieces was there helping her all day. After supper she went

home and I went with her and stayed all night. I got so cold riding that I was chilly all night, and all evening I sat before the fire place. There had the cook stove just behind where I sat so I was between two fires, but it seemed that I couldn't get thawed out or warmed through.

In about a week Mother moved to Mrs. Drew's near our place. She boarded with them, and I stayed with the Carters and went to school all winter. When the school was out I went over where Mother was. It was the first of April and the weather was fine. Mrs. Gillet wanted a girl to stay with her a while and take care of her two little children. After I was there a week or two there came a heavy snow storm about three feet deep and drifted in places to about four or five feet deep. Mrs. Gillet got very blue and discouraged and grumbled about the weather. She said that they would all starve etc.... One day she sent me to the barn to gather eggs which were 12 cents a dozen and she saved them all to sell. I had to climb up to get to the nest and in getting down one day I fell and broke one egg. She was vexed about it and said there was one cent gone etc I got tired of her growling and told her I would go over to Drews where Mother was. She said "I'd like to see you go, you can't get through the snow." It was very damp and melting off and the swales were running with water. There was one very large one to cross. She said I could not cross it. I told her I would cross on the fence and she said she would laugh to see me come back, but once I got started I kept on right through the drifts and water and was wet to the waist when I got there. It was about 2 -2 1/2 miles. When I saw that I could not keep my feet dry I just plodded along through the snow and water. When I got there Mother was gone. She had gone to the Carters to get her things and chickens to move home. She got back the next day. Then the day after we moved over to our home. She wanted to move while the snow was on the ground so could use the sled. The folks that had our place rented had not moved out yet, so Mother had told them the month before. They got out a few days after we moved in. We were glad to get home again.

In about a month Father came home, he had been in Oregon to visit my grandparents (my mother's folks) who had crossed the plains in 1847. Their name was Young. They stopped at the Whitman Station at the time of the Whitman massacre. They were spared because they were English, but one of the boys, Uncle James Young was away at some mill and in coming back he met two Indians. One of them told him to go back as there was trouble with the Indians. The other told him to go on as there was no danger. So he didn't know which one to

trust and went ahead. He had not gone far until the one that said to go on shot him in the back and killed him. The other Indian told of it to his folks. There was two boys with their parents who got through to Oregon City, stayed there a while then settled in the Tualatin plains three miles N.E. of Hillsboro. And that is where Father came to visit them.

Father got home in May of 1861. He put in a field of corn and garden but no grain. That year he bought forty acres of land north of his, which formed the first forty acres and reached out to the county road.

The next spring we got a hundred choice apple trees and set them out. We already had a choice peach orchard, we had all the peaches we could use and sold them to our neighbors and gave away lots of them and good a many went to waste too.

In the summer of 1853 [?] Father sold everything he had, even a span of fillies which he hated to part with, but Father liked Oregon so well he made quite a sacrifice to go. We went by water as Father said it was too much of a hardship by land. We started from home in September. We went to Otoway [Ottawa] in a wagon. There we took the train to Chicago then on to New York by train and was to get there by the time the steamer *Prometheus* got in port. We got there a week earlier than the steamer we had to wait. We got a private boarding house. While going along the street up to the house a delivery wagon came around the corner as we were crossing the street and the horse ran against my little brother Preston who was five that September and knocked him down, struck him in the abdomen with his hoof and knocked him senseless. When he came to, he was dreadful sick for a while. But in a few days was a well as ever. He was deaf and ran ahead of us a little and couldn't hear us call to him, nor hear the wagon or he would not have been run over. He was all the brother I had.

While we were in Ohio, my brother Charles, five years old died with liver trouble in May of 1850. I had one sister three years old in November.

I don't know when we left on the steamer. We were three weeks going to the Isthmus of Panama. We went by the Nicaraguan route and crossed over the mountains on little burros. It was twelve miles across. We stopped over one day before getting our things ready to send over. We had lots of oranges, bananas and plantains to eat. We got them for five cents per dozen. I don't remember the name of the town on either side of the Isthmus, but we stayed all night on each side.

We went up the San Juan River to the lake in small river boats. I think there were three of them and in some

places the bank was so close we could touch the branches of the trees. In some places the monkeys were thick in the trees chattering at us. We were a part of the day and all night getting to the lake. At this lake we took all day we took all day getting our things on board and then all night getting to where we had to land. There were no wharves so had to land in life boats and be taken ashore as the steamer could not go near shore. It took nearly all day and all hands and the freight to land. We got to shore about noon. There were lots of natives there and a few Americans. There was one black man that helped run the hotel. He said his family were in Ohio and showed us pictures of his wife and children. He said as soon as he made a good stake he was going home.

At night we slept in hammocks as it was too warm for beds there. We started as early as we could get away which was about ten o'clock to cross the mountains. I had a side saddle with the back horn broken off. They did not have any bridles. A native driver was along to drive them. He carried my brother and my satchel and Father carried sister Sarah and another satchel. Brother [Mother] carried a satchel and also our dinner box. We had to furnish our grub while crossing or it would have cost us quite a bit to board all the time. We bought coffee and bread.

While going over the mountains, my burro started to feed along the way and turned down a deep canyon. The driver was attending to some of the other animals so didn't see him at first for he had twelve animals to drive and watch. While my burro was feeding I jumped over him and my dress caught on the broken horn of the saddle and tore it pretty bad. Just then the native saw him and all the jabbering that fellow got and whipping too. He tried to ask me if I was hurt but he could talk only Spanish, I shook my head and he seemed to understand. I got back on the burro and we got there by evening.

There was only one big shed of a house to stay in and every one had their own bedding. All the women and children slept on the floor, I guess the men found some other sheds to sleep in. some slept on tables and benches. The next day early the people began to go aboard the other boat on the Pacific Ocean. The name of the boat was *Cortez* and [it was a] very large double decker.

(When we first started out from New York there was five days of stormy weather and nearly everybody was seasick. I was seasick a very little. I did not miss a meal and sometimes was the only one at the table. We passed the West Indian Islands. I think we passed between Cuba and Haiti but I am not certain as we may have come through the Yucatan Channel. I have forgotten which it was. I have lost my diary of the trip but believe it was

the first way.)

On the Pacific Ocean we had fine weather all the way. Only when we crossed the Gulf of Tehuantepec and that was during the night. For a little while it seemed that the boat would go to pieces. First thing I knew a big wave struck her and it sounded like she had struck a rock. A skylight broke and the water came pouring in and was nearly knee-deep in steerage.

At the time we went aboard the *Cortez* it took all day for everyone to get a board as we had to go out about a mile in life boats. The life boats could not come very near shore so the natives had to carry the passengers and freight out though the surf to the life boats which were then rowed to the ocean steamer. It was afternoon before my folks got to go. We sat in the shade all forenoon on the hull of a wrecked steamer that had been cast up on the shore. We sat there and watched the young natives ride on the surf. They each had a little board and swam out and rode in on the waves. It was fun to watch them and they kept it up nearly all day while the tide was coming in.

They natives had shells for sale. Such pretty ones I had never seen. They had stands of lemon aid, fruit and bread to sell. The weather was very warm though they had been having some rain which they called their winter.

We were about three weeks going to San Francisco and when we got there our boat we were going to take on to Oregon had already gone so we had to wait for another one. We stopped at the Keystone House for about five days before the steamer *Columbia* came. We had a very nice time in San Francisco. The young Mr. Herring who helped his mother run the hotel was a very nice man. He took me to a panorama show one evening which I enjoyed very much. The scenery was called "Swing The Elephant." It was crossing the plains from Council Bluff to California in 1849 for hunting gold showing the hardships and difficulties and many laughable incidents on the trip. The last picture when they finally stopped was a small mining town mostly of tents and a rough and mountainous country. The big white elephant painted as standing on the side of a mountain representing toil, hardships, and scarcity of everything.

The greater part of San Francisco was tents and small board shacks. The streets were planks with here and there a plank gone. And was mostly built over the bay on pilings which made it dangerous to go over at night.

We got aboard the steamer *Columbia* the last day of November and landed in Portland December 5, 1853. The trip was very pleasant and rough only one day. This made us slide back and forth across the cabin on our

chairs which made it quite laughable. The steamer landed in Astoria and all the passengers got aboard small river steamers to come to Portland. We were all night going to Portland. A pilot boat brought us in over the Columbia River bar the morning of the 4th of December. The large steamers could not then go up the river. Portland was a small town with board side-walks where there were any, and all the streets were very muddy with a few stumps in them here and there. The houses and hotels were just light frame buildings -- weather-boarded outside and cloth and paper in the partitions. It wasn't long until more substantial buildings were put up.

My uncle Samuel Young came for us the next day as Father had gone after him as soon as we landed. I think the hotel we stopped at was the National. It was run by William McMillen's mother and his step father. I can't remember their names. Uncle got in town the evening of the 6th with an ox team and the morning of the 7th we started for the Tualatin Plains. We went out of Portland on the old plank road as it was called then. It is now called Canyon Road. We got to Grandpa's house just before dark. Grandma had supper ready. We had chicken, milk, butter, apple pie, warm biscuits and coffee. We were glad to eat and rest after our long journey.

There were not very many Indians in this part of Oregon, only a few small tribes and they were kept on reservations. One old Indian, Micky, used to get deer hides from the whites and tan them on shares. He lived to be over hundred years old, was quite blind and feeble when he died.

Father, Mother and my little brother 5 years old and sister 3 years old, stayed with Grandpa all winter. Father and Uncle John made shingles to sell and in the spring Father took a claim about two miles back of the old Lennox place or West Union Church. In March we moved on the place in a one roomed house and cooked over a fireplace all summer. A neighbor of ours by the name of Everson had taken a place near us about one and half miles. The Fourth of July we went to visit them. We were invited to dinner and they had several of the neighbors there and we had a fine dinner and a good time. Father was asked to go with the Hillsboro band to Portland.

That day he was a snare drummer. We were all home by nine o'clock and the day was fine. That evening I had a little sister arrive about eleven-fifteen. We named her Elizabeth.

Father did not like his place for he could not get water handily. He dug a well but [there] was no water. So he left it that fall and bought another place near West Union a little over a mile from where we were and bought

the other man's improvements (name Lennox). I got acquainted with a number of young folks that summer. I attended Sunday School at the West Baptist Church

The winter I stayed at Grandpa's I stayed with Mr. [Mrs.] Belknap and went to school with her two little girls at Mr. Griffin's school house where he also held church. He was a Congregational minister. He was sent to Oregon as a missionary in 1839. Grandpa's folks attended his church and so did my folks until they moved to West Union. They then joined the Baptist Church. Mr. Eels was our school teacher. He was a fine man and well liked.

Mr. Griffin had three hundred sixty acres of farm land, a nice large house, barn and an apple orchard. He also had pear and plum trees.

There was a family by the name of Pomeroy who lived on the plains N.E. of Hillsboro, which was then a small village with one street. I got acquainted with the Pomeroy's the first winter I was in Oregon. Also with a family by the name of Zachary. They had several nice girls, one near my own age. We girls were real good friends, especially Katy who was near my own age. Mr. Pomeroy's older boy, Walter married in October 1854 to Jane Tuttle of Forest Grove. Katie and I were invited. Nearly everybody rode horseback those days. Katie and I went with Henry Girty (He was a step brother to Calvin Pomeroy.) I went with Calvin to the wedding. It was a fine affair. I had been to a camp meeting in June with Calvin to a place that is now called Cornelius but there was no town there then. The next morning after the wedding we went to the Pomeroy's (Walter's father) for dinner and had a good time. They had dancing in the evening and supper about midnight.

My folks lived in a large house with two windows and one door. They had no stove yet. We had curtains to petition off for the bedrooms.

In November in 1854 Calvin and I were married. We gave a wedding dinner to our relatives and friends. We had quite a house full and a good dinner which was all cooked on or over the fireplace. I've always been proud of this.

The next summer Father bought a new cookstove. Walter's father gave him and Calvin eighty acres of farm land apiece and they each built themselves a house. The one that Walter built is still standing but our house was moved because after the county roads were surveyed our home was right in the center of the road so it was torn down. The land was sold to a Mr. Gibson in 1865. We bought another place of 160 acres back of the West Union Church.

Our first child was born March 23, 1857. In 1858 we took a trip to San Francisco on the *S.S. Cortez*. We were there a week visiting friends. We came back on the same steamer. The day before we came to the mouth of the Columbia river there came a terrible storm which nearly wrecked the boat. The waves were mountainous. One wave struck the boat so hard it made her tremble and tore away part of the wheel house and part of the hurricane deck. It was so bad that only half the engines could work. And we couldn't cross the bar, the waves being so high. We had to run into Victoria B.C. and make repairs which took all the next day. We were in Victoria over one day then ran back to the mouth of the Columbia River. By that time the sea was not so rough but not very calm either. We crossed the bar the next morning early and back to Portland safely the next morning.

One of our neighbors being in town with his hack gave us a ride home. We found everything alright. We had left the place in the care of Mr. Humphrey who slept in the house nights.

The next summer Calvin's father went to California to live as he was sick with inflammatory rheumatism. He had been troubled with it for quite a while. He bought some property in Petaluma, Cal. and sold all but fifteen acres of the land in Oregon. The fifteen acres he kept had a house, barn and orchard on it.

In 1859 we had another little son.

In September or October Father Pomeroy died. He was worth several thousand dollars, mostly in gold. His wife got all that but the personal property was sold and divided among the heirs which amounted to about \$500 apiece. There was no will made that we knew of. His wife was his third one so her and her children had plenty of money as long as they lived. Her youngest child was a Pomeroy. She was a widow (Girty) with two children, Henry and Catherine. Her daughter married in 1849 or 50 to a man named Fournier and his son married in 1859 or 60 and settled on a part of a farm that belonged to his Mother about three miles from Hillsboro. The youngest son, Ebb Pomeroy married before his father left Oregon at the age of 17 or 18 to a Kate Monroe and settled on a piece of land. Katie's Father deeded the land to them and his heirs. They had three daughters. Annie never married. The others are living in Portland. They were all very attractive. Their mother died when Annie was only three years old, about 1872. Then their Grandmother took care of them for a while. When they moved to Deer Island. that was about 1870. While there their father Ebb, was cleaning out a well and it caved in on him. That was about 1870.

On August 22, 1861, we had a daughter and named her Henrietta Eunice. When she was 23 years old she married W. A. Kirts of Greenville, WA. They owned property in Cedar Mill, sold that and bought a store - kept that for several years and then went to Montana. Later on they went to Alaska, stayed three years mining. They had good claims, came back and bought city property in Portland. Mr. Kirts went partners with Sam Young in a feed and grocery store. They kept that for several years then sold out and went to Idaho. It was now January 4, 1916. [sic]

My oldest son Walter married at 23 to Mary Stump at Scappoose, Oregon. They have lived there most of the time since. He owns a good farm and has mostly cattle and dairy products. His son James is married and helps run the place and is now raising fine registered Holstein stock. Walter is raising pure bred chickens.

My other son Dwight, is on a farm near Hillsboro - he also owns property in St. Johns. Walter has a daughter Susie, married to a Mr. Leonard of Scappoose. Dwight raised two daughters, both married.

I have thirteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren - two boys and two girls. I now have four boys and three girls all with families except Eunice who has no children. One boy, Silas lives in Portland and has two children. My second girl Lela, lives in Salem, Oregon, and is married to Ernest Blue. They have two boys and own property in Salem and he is a lawyer. The youngest girl, Stella married William Pomeroy from back east. They have two boys and a girl. They own property in Sandy, Scappoose and on the Pacific Ocean. They live in Milwaukie now as he is a street car motor man.

My husband and I lived in Cedar Mill seven years. He died on September 27, 1905. Then I went to Salem to stay with my son Charles. He owns a jewelry store and has been in that business ever since he married Elizabeth Cornelius. She has been a doctor for 12 years. They have one boy, Ray, who is studying to be a doctor. He is nearly through now - studied nearly four years. I stayed with them all winter, then went to visit my other children. Then I went back and stayed another winter with Charles. It was too lonesome with the doctor gone to the office all day. So I went and stayed with Stella, my youngest girl. I go and stay a while with each of my children and am now with my daughter Lela Blue. Will be here about three months (Salem), then go back to Portland and Milwaukie.

This account of the life of Henrietta Blish Pomeroy used courtesy of the Washington County Museum Library.

American Migration Timeline

Judith Scott

- 1607:** Jamestown founded in Virginia.
- 1674:** Gabriel Arthur traveled through the Cumberland Gap on the Warriors' Path of Kentucky.
- 1735-1750:** King's Highway a continuous road between all the colonies.
- 1735:** Fall Line Road cut off Kings Highway and continues south into Georgia.
- 1744:** The Treaty of Lancaster with the Iroquois Confederacy affirmed the use of the Warriors' Path and allowed English settlements west of the "Great Mountains".
- 1744:** The beginning of the Great Valley Road.
- 1745:** The first settlement west of the New River was called Dunkards Bottom.
- 1746:** Pioneer Road cut across Virginia from Alexandria through Ashby's Gap to Winchester.
- 1750:** The Loyal Land Company granted 800,000 acres in southwest Virginia.
- 1750:** Thomas Walker named the Cumberland Gap.
- 1754-1763:** The French and Indian War.
- 1763:** Treaty of Paris gives England a French territory east of the Mississippi River, but settlement is prohibited.
- 1769:** Daniel Boone and a group of long hunters explore Kentucky for nearly two years.
- 1773:** Boone attempts to move his family to Kentucky ends with the death of his son James.
- 1774:** Lord Dunmore's War and the Point Pleasant in West Virginia paved the way for the settlement of West Virginia and Kentucky.
- 1775:** Richard Henderson of the Transylvania Land Company "buys" Kentucky from the Cherokee Indians.
- 1775:** Daniel Boone and a group of thirty men cut a trail through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky.
- 1775-1810:** Wilderness Road-An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 people passed through Cumberland Gap to Kentucky.
- 1776:** The American Colonies declared their independence.
- 1785:** Land Ordinance Act authorizing the sale of Public Domain land.
- 1785:** The rectangular survey system adopted.
- 1800-1812:** The Treasury Department sold more than 4 million acres of public land for settlement.
- 1803:** U. S. purchases more than 800,000 square miles of the Louisiana Territory from France.
- 1804-1806:** Lewis and Clark expedition explores the Missouri River and the Oregon Territory.
- 1811-1839:** Construction of the National Road.
- 1819:** Treaty with Spain resulted in Spain's cession of East Florida.
- 1832:** Erie Canal connects New York with the Great Lakes.
- 1836-1869:** Oregon Trail and its many offshoots were used by about 400,000 settlers.
- 1830-39:** Indian Removal Act of 1830. The Trail of Tears.
- 1837:** 46,000 Native Americans removed from their homelands opening 25 million acres for settlement.
- 1845:** Annexation of Texas - admitted as the 28th state.
- 1846:** Oregon Treaty with Great Britain determined the boundary of the Oregon Country.
- 1846-1847:** The Donner party trapped in the Sierra Nevada.
- 1847:** Brigham Young leads Mormons from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Utah to establish the Colony of New Zion.
- 1848:** Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill.
- 1848:** The Mexican Cession of present states of California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona, half of New Mexico, parts of Colorado and Wyoming.
- 1850:** Donation Land Claim Act to promote homestead settlements in the Oregon Territory. By 1855: 7,437 land patents issued.
- 1862:** The Homestead Act encourages settlement of "unoccupied" western lands.
- 1863:** In January Daniel Freeman filed the first claim under the act on his homestead near Beatrice, Nebraska.
- 1869:** Transcontinental railroad completed.
- 1874:** Gold discovered in the Black Hills.
- 1887:** Dawes Act reduces Indian landholdings; "surplus lands" on the reservations are opened up to white settlement.
- 1889:** Indian Territory (Oklahoma) opened to homesteaders; 50,000 settlers claim all 1.92 million acres by sunset.
- 1890-1920:** About two million African Americans migrate from the southern states to northern cities.
- 1930s:** The Dust Bowl forced tens of thousands of families to abandon their farms and move west.

GFOW Writing Contest: Second Place

Two Blue Stars

Judy Kellar Fox, C.G.*

In 1942 Idella Kellar, a west-Santa-Rosa resident, hung a small flag in the window of her home at 939 West Avenue. The little banner remained there, fading with the light, for three years. It was a Mother's Blue Star Flag, an indicator to the community that she had a son in the military. Her flag bore two stars, as her second and third sons, Herald and Jack, were both serving in the U. S. Army Air Corps. The stars were blue, indicating living servicemen.¹ Should a son die during his service, his star would be changed to gold. The hope was to keep the stars blue and to see her sons return home safely from war.

For over thirty years Idella journaled her days in one- or five-year diaries.² She wrote of the weather, her house- and yard work, her social activities, and her family gatherings. Rarely did she express an opinion or register an emotion. One exception was her entry for Wednesday, December 10, 1941: "Just a fine day. I went to Bee Club in P.M. to Mrs. Hudson's. Every body nervous."

Although the day was "fine," certainly talk at the Bee Club revolved around the recent bombing of Pearl Harbor and the entry of the U. S. into war with Japan, Germany, and Italy. The ladies surely felt uncertain about the future of their country and their sons of service age. Idella chronicled those days in her characteristic terse style:

Sun., December 7, 1941. Betty [daughter, fifteen] went to S[unday]. S[chool]. We went to Church. Pearl Harbor was bombed by Japs to-day. We went to Church at night.

Mon., December 8, 1941. War was declared on Japan. Pat [friend Edith Patterson] and I went to Forestville at night to a church meeting. We had a blackout.

Tues., December 9, 1941. War was declared on Germany & Italy. We had another blackout. Herald is at Monterey.

The last entry gave Idella cause for concern. Herald was her second child, just shy of twenty-seven years old.



He worked with his father, John Kellar, at the sawmill at Pino Grande, between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe, and had traveled to Monterey to join the army. On 5 December, two days before Pearl Harbor, he enlisted as a private in the Army Air Corps at the Presidio of Monterey.³ That would allow him to avoid the draft and choose his service.

Herald trained at Biloxi, Mississippi, and was stationed at March Field in Riverside County, California, midway between Los Angeles and Palm Springs.⁴ He was in the 4th Air Force whose mission was to provide air defense of the southwestern U. S. and to prepare troops for overseas air combat.⁵ Herald would likely be sent abroad. Meanwhile, while at March Field, Herald met and courted Florence Madge, a girl from nearby Riverside.

Florence's first appearance in Idella's diary is in October:

Thurs., October 8, 1942 Ironing. Herald & Florence came home and surprised us. Herald has 10 day furlough.

Sat., October 10, 1942 David, Eunice & boys [eldest son David and family] Herald, Florence & I left for the mill a[t] 4 o'clock. Jack, Alice [Jack's wife] & Betty came in evening.

Tues., October 13, 1942 Getting ready to leave the mill. Davy [David Jr.] is not very well. Herald & Florence left at 8 for Reno. We arrived home at 4:45.

What Idella didn't say was that while she was returning to Santa Rosa that Tuesday, Herald and Florence were married at the First Methodist Church in Reno.⁶ The family's gathering in Pino Grande, where their father was working, was probably a celebration of this new relationship and a welcoming of Florence to the family.



Ten days later Idella's third son Jack, barely twenty-one, enlisted in the army, too. He would be stationed at Hamilton Field in Marin County, about thirty-five miles south of his home in Santa Rosa. It was an important training airfield, particularly after Pearl Harbor. Jack had married Alice Streeter in Santa Rosa six months earlier, Easter Sunday 1942.⁷ The newlyweds would be able to see each other on Jack's weekend married man's pass.

Jack had been working as a civilian at Mare Island Naval Ship Yard near Vallejo, California, about fifty miles southeast of Santa Rosa and had to be relieved of that job before enlistment. Idella recorded her youngest son's decision, giving no hint of how upset she was that he was leaving, too. Now there would be no man at home during the nine months each year that her husband was working in Pino Grande.⁸

Thurs., October 22, 1942 Working in yard. Jack went to Hamilton Field to enlist. The choir had a party for [choir members] Bob Cordell [the minister's son] and the 2 Jacks.

Fri., October 23, 1942 I dressed some chickens. Went over town & got Alice. Jack went to Mare Island to get relieved [*sic*].

Mon., October 26, 1942 Alice, Jack & I went to Hamilton Field. Jack is entering the Service.



Jack, his pilot, and his P-51

Daughter Betty recalls how broken up her mother was at the time: "I remember going to Santa Rosa with her and standing on the corner of A and Santa Rosa Ave... We stood there and watched the Greyhound buses go by, loaded with young men that had been inducted in the service. Mother cried and cried." Mother and daughter cried, thinking of their own sons and brothers.⁹

Both Herald and Jack served in the U. S. Army Air Corps in the European theater. Jack trained as a mechanic for the Allison engines used on the P-51 Mustang fighter-bomber plane. In the fall of 1943 he shipped out to England. Eventually Staff Sergeant Kellar served as a crew chief in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Holland, and Germany.

Master Sergeant Herald Kellar was a mechanic, too,

and also served in England and France. He evaluated plane crashes, seeing firsthand the horrible aftermath of air combat. A rough and tough guy, his sometimes wild and impulsive actions probably relieved the emotional burden of his job. It's said he drove his jeep up the steps and into a hall in France or Germany, and he was once seen drunk (with or maybe without clothes) in the water of a public fountain.¹⁰

When Herald left the States, sometime after mid-November 1942, Florence was pregnant. In her abbreviated style, Idella recorded the birth of their daughter Jane on August 12, 1943:

Wed., August 11, 1943 Dressed some chickens to can. Took Florence to Hospital in P.M. Patt & I went to show in evening.

Thurs., August 12, 1943 Canned chicken this morning. Florence had her baby this morning. We went to see her. Went to Club at Mrs. Philips[?] in P.M.

The brothers had the opportunity to get together at least twice, once in London and once, after the Normandy invasion, in Paris. Photographer Jack recorded the meetings.¹¹ He was good about writing home often, so the family had frequent contact with him. They were very excited when Herald and Jack met.¹²



In London they clowned together.



Another photographer captured the brothers in England, too. Their sister, at a movie in Santa Rosa with her beau Hank Mayfohrt, caught a glimpse of her brothers, for just a second, on the newsreel showing soldiers at a pool table in England. She was so excited she didn't want to stay for the movie, but go home and tell the family.¹³ Her brothers were together and safe.

When they got together, Herald and Jack probably compared notes about the kinds of work they did and shared experiences that were never told to family at home.

Idella's diary betrays no hint of the relief she surely felt as her boys returned home at war's end. Herald arrived first, released from the Army October 22, 1945¹⁴:

Mon., October 22, 1945 We left the mill at 9:50.

Arrived home at 4:45. Herald was discharged to-day. We stopped at Sacramento & Fairfield.

Thurs., October 25, 1945 Working in yard. Herald was discharged on Monday from the army.

Fri., October 26, 1945 Betty & I left early for Sacramento, to get Herald's [family].

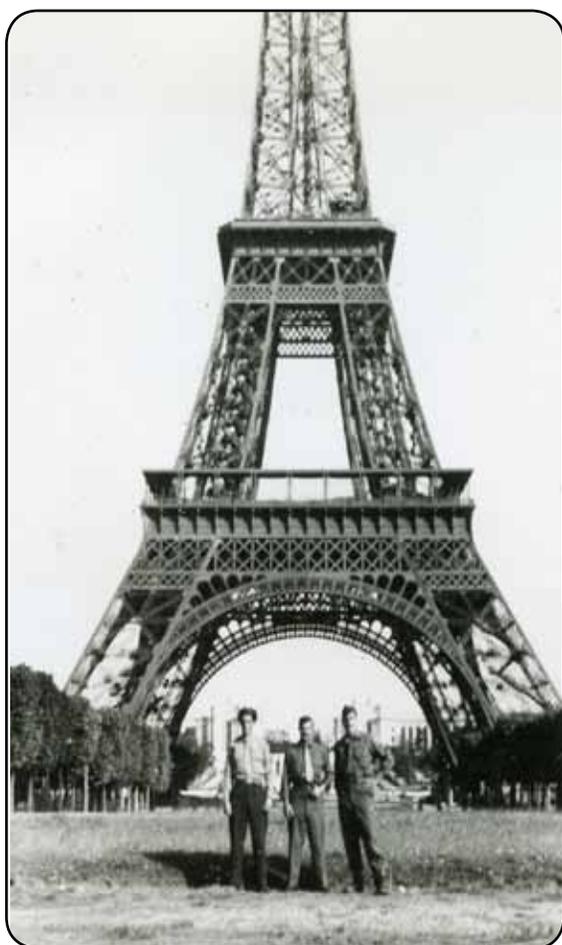
Sat., October 27, 1945 Baked a pie. Went to town. Getting ready to go to the mill. Had Enchiladas for supper.

Sun., October 28, 1945 Left at 5 o'clock. Had breakfast at Fairfield. David's were at the mill too.

Tues., October 30, 1945 Left for home about 8:30. Showering. Brought Janie home with me.

Back stateside and home, Herald returned to his bride and met his two-year-old daughter Jane for the first time. Idella and Betty picked up the reunited family and celebrated their return to Santa Rosa with an enchilada supper. It was a special meal, as that is one of the few dishes Idella mentions specifically in her diaries. The next day they headed to Pino Grande for a reunion with John and Dave and his family, almost the whole family back together again. Idella and Betty kept Janie for a while so Herald and Florence could have time alone together.

Ten days later word came from Jack that he was stateside, too, in New York. From there he made his way to Camp Beale, about fifty miles north of Sacramento, California.



Jack's portrait of his brother Herald, center, and Jack, right, with an unknown man at the Eiffel Tower.

Friday, November 9, 1945 Took Janie home to Betty and then I went to town. It is raining. Had a wire from Jack. He is in N.Y.

Sun., November 11, 1945 I went to Church & S. S. Betty, Henry [Mayfohrt,

Betty's husband], Janie, Alice & Patt were here for dinner.

Tues., November 20, 1945 Sewed nearly all day. Jack is at Camp Beale. Alice came out for supper. She is not feeling so good.

Wed., November 21, 1945 I was busy all day getting ready for Thanksgiving. David's & Herald's came in the evening.

Thurs., November 22, 1945 Had late breakfast. Jack was discharged and he & Alice arrived about 3 o'clock for dinner.

Betty recalls how happy she and everyone were to be together for that Thanksgiving dinner. Typically, Herald showed no emotion, but Jack cried at the table, revealing what he had gone through and his relief and joy to be home again.¹⁵

Had Idella had the inclination or more lines on her diary page, she might have said it was a "fine day," a day to give thanks for the safe return of her sons from war and for the blessing of her whole family once again seated around the Thanksgiving table. She could now take down her Blue Star Flag, her sons home and alive, having avoided the honorable, but dreaded, gold star.

Idella's Family

Mary "Idella" Muth was born in Henderson Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, 1 November 1884 to Philip Charles Muth and Mary Lavina Reiter.¹⁶ She died at age ninety-one in Santa Rosa, 13 January 1976.¹⁷ She married John Martin Kellar in Punxsutawney, Jefferson County, on 31 January 1912.¹⁸ He was born 14 June 1879 in Henderson Township,¹⁹ and died 20 August 1964 in Santa Rosa, at age eighty-five.²⁰

Children of John Martin Kellar and Mary "Idella" Muth were as follows:

i. David Eugene "Dave" Kellar was born 28 January 1913 in McCloud, Siskiyou County, California, and died 3 June 1988 in Lodi, San Joaquin County, California at age seventy-five. He married Mary "Eunice" Guthrie 10 June 1934 in Santa Rosa.²¹

ii. Herald Charles Kellar was born 19 December 1914 in McCloud and died 16 May 1986 in Reedsport, Douglas County, Oregon, at age seventy-one.²² He married Florence Jane Madge 13 October 1942 in Reno, Washoe County, Nevada.²³

iii. Jack Junior Kellar was born 4 September 1921 in Stirling City, Butte County, California and died 15 May 2006 in Santa Rosa at age eighty-four.²⁴ He married Alice Mae Streeter 5 April 1942 in Santa Rosa.²⁵

iv. Betty Marie Kellar was born 1 October 1926

in Chico, Butte County.²⁶ She married (1) Henry Martin Mayfohr 4 July 1945 in Santa Rosa; (2) Alfred Grimes 28 September 1959 in Modesto, Stanislaus County, California; and (3) Clyde Myron Lowdermilk 30 July 1990 in Stateline, Douglas County, Nevada.²⁷ Betty is still living.

(Endnotes)

* CG, Certified Genealogist, is a service mark of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, used under license by Board-certified genealogists after periodic competency evaluations, and the Board name is registered in the US Patent & Trademark Office.

1. Mother's Blue Star Flag of Mary "Idella" (Muth) Kellar, Kellar Family Collection; privately held by Judy Kellar Fox, Aloha, Oregon. The flag is of appliqué cotton in red, white, and blue and measures six inches by ten inches. A dowel sits in a hem at the top, attached to a string for hanging. The flag passed from Idella to her son Jack to his daughter Judy.
2. "Five Year Diary," a pre-dated book with entries in the hand of Mary "Idella" (Muth) Kellar, 1 January 1941—31 December 1945, Kellar Family Collection; privately held by Judy Kellar Fox, Aloha, Oregon. The diaries passed from Idella to her son Jack to his daughter Judy. Brackets indicate editorial notes.
3. "U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 November 2012), entry for Herald C. Kellar.
4. Herald [Sgt. Kellar 44 Mat(erial) Sq(uadron). March Field Cal] to Mrs. J. M. Kellar, 939 West Ave., Santa Rosa, Calif., postcard of Boulder Bay, Big Bear Lake, California, no date or postmark ["free"], but postcard from same location to Miss Betty Kellar, 939 West Ave, Santa Rosa, Calif., is postmarked Aug. 9, 1942. Herald wrote, "Up here on maneuvers."
5. "Fourth Air Force," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Air_Force : accessed 6 November 2012), paragraph 3.
6. Washoe County, Nevada, Marriages, Book 74: 191, no. 148710, Herald C. Kellar and Florence J. Madge; Office of the County Recorder, Reno.
7. Sonoma County, California, Marriage Licenses, Vol. 38: 221, no. 5305, Jack J. Kellar and Alice M. Streeter; Office of the County Recorder, Santa Rosa.
8. Betty (Kellar) Lowdermilk, daughter of Mary "Idella" (Muth) Kellar and John M. Kellar (Goleta, California), telephone interview by Judy Kellar Fox 9 November 2012; notes privately held by interviewer, Aloha, Oregon, 2012.
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ibid.*
11. Jack J. Kellar photograph album of paper prints taken in Europe 1943-1945; selected photos digitized; privately held by Judy Kellar Fox, Aloha, Oregon, who acquired the album at her father's passing. The photos, all black and white, some yellowing, are affixed to the black paper pages with photo mounting corners. Many pages are tattered at the edges from repeated viewings.
12. Betty (Kellar) Lowdermilk interview, 9 November 2012.
13. *Ibid.*
14. "U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File 1850-2010," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 November 2012), entry for Herald Kellar; original data from *Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS) Death File*, Washington, D.C., U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
15. Betty (Kellar) Lowdermilk interview, 9 November 2012.
16. May [*sic*] Idella Muth, Certificate of Baptism, 19 April 1885, held by the author (2006). A preprinted form published by Ernst Kaufmann, 66 Fulton Street, New York.
17. California Department of Health Services, Certificate of Death, 4900-47 (1976), Mary Idella Kellar; Vital Statistics Branch, Sacramento.
18. Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, Marriage License Docket 26: 455, No. 10253, for John M. Kellar and Mary Idella Muth; County Clerk, Brookville; FHL microfilm 1,290,378.
19. Paradise Community United Church of Christ (Pennsylvania), "Baptism of Infants," 1874-1956, unpaginated, chronological, entry for 25 January 1880, John Martin Keller [*sic*]; church office, Paradise.
20. California Department of Health Services, Certificate of Death 4900-1176 (1964), John Martin Kellar; Vital Statistics Branch, Sacramento.
21. David Kellar, Robert Kellar, Mary Kellar Thomas, and Kathy Kellar Carter, Kellar-Guthrie Family Group Sheet; provided 1992. The sheet offers undocumented information about their parents.
22. Florence Kellar, Kellar-Madge Family Group Sheet; a computer printout edited by Florence Kellar in 1993. The information is undocumented. Also, Oregon Department of Human Services, Certificate of Death 86-008512 (1986), Herald Charles Kellar; Center for Health Statistics.
23. Washoe County, Nevada, Marriages, Book 74: 191, no. 148710.
24. Sonoma County, California, California Birth Certificate, Book C: 282, Jack Junior Kellar, 1921 and 1943; and Certificate of Death, local registration no. 3-2006-49-001443, Jack Junior Kellar, 2006; Public Health Service, Vital Statistics, Santa Rosa.
25. Sonoma County, California, Marriage Licenses, Vol. 38: 221, no. 5305.
26. Butte County, California, Certificate of Birth no. 159, Betty Marie Kellar, 1926.
27. Betty Kellar Lowdermilk, Betty Marie Kellar Family Information, provided in 1992 and 1993 by Betty Lowdermilk (Goleta, California).

Educate Yourself

A Check List for the Genealogist

Edited by Mrs. William Irvine, March 1954

How well I remember the first time I visited the Genealogical Forum. I had already considerable data through my own family but this was my first attempt to learn about genealogical research in books and original records. Someone handed me a book listing sources of information and after half an hour came back to see how much I had learned. The fact was, confronted by the mass of facts in this excellent book, I had not been able to absorb a thing. It has become apparent since, that this early feeling of bewilderment is quite general among beginners.

One wonders if there is some device by which genealogical record sources can be so outlined and organized as to be presented with a little more clarity to the novice. Here is a list of questions against which each problem can be checked:

1. Have you written to all relatives asking them for Bible records, obituaries, miscellaneous clippings, old letters, photographs, memories? (copies of)
2. Have you tried locating unknown relatives and family friends by writing postmasters or advertising in newspapers?
3. Have you investigated all ancestral name files available to you either to add to your data or locate others working on your line?
4. Have you checked all vital statistics available, either original or printed?
5. Will census records help, either original or printed?
6. Have you looked for wills or administrations?
7. Have you tried other court house or federal records such as land, tax, register of voters, civil, criminal or probate records?
8. Have you tried to locate a military record?
9. If a military record is found, have you obtained a pension record?
10. Have you investigated unofficial records as church, school, lodge, business?
11. Have you looked for a genealogy of the family?
12. Have you consulted all lineage books, compendiums and like books?
13. Have you consulted town, county, place histories for biographies and other information?
14. Have you corresponded with State Libraries, Historical Societies, Regional card catalogues of every kind?
15. Have you tried locating others working on your family lines through various genealogical exchanges, querying or family associations?
16. Have you corresponded with people of the same name wherever they may be found?

This list may not cover every source from which the researcher can gain information (he may wish to add more of his own as he gains experience) but to ignore one on the list is to fail to take advantage of every possible lead. Checking every problem against such a list will change the beginner's question from "What shall I do?" to "Where will I find out about this source or that source?" which is a distinct step forward in the assimilation of necessary information. Such a list in the hands of an older worker will keep him from missing a source of information he has for some reason overlooked. Of course, each problem must be treated individually and one research source may be more helpful than another, according to the need presented. For instance, in general, vital records offer the most help after the year 1900. Census records offer the most help between the years 1850 to 1880. Pensions were given for the services in the Revolutionary War and for all wars after. Those who cannot find their problems answered by books and original sources oftentimes resort to tracing all close or distant relatives, corresponding with people of the same name, and locating others working on the same line. If one takes this list and lays it beside his problem he can check off what he has done and generally come up with something yet to be tried. LUCK is nine-tenths seeing the opportunity in every situation and acting upon it. A simple formula, and yet how many of us put off starting the things we know we could be doing!

Written in Stone

Trick or Treat! From Vandalism to Celebration

Carol Surrency



It's the middle of October as I write this column. The leaves are turning brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow, but we are having a long, dry spell with days in the high 60's. I always expect to have a nice week or two of sunny weather during this month as hot summer days do not inspire me to do yard work. Sunshine with a touch of crispness in the air is another story. Fall weather brings a renewed burst of energy and, for those of us who enjoy spending time in cemeteries, October is an opportunity to enjoy these outdoor spaces as a place to walk and soak in the fall colors as well as to research.

Toward the end of the month, however, an increasingly popular holiday often poses a threat for graveyards. Halloween, with its emphasis on ghosts, zombies, and ghouls, prompts some individuals to resort to acts of vandalism in their efforts to have "fun." Already the evening news has reported toppled headstones at two cemeteries in the last few weeks, one in the Portland Metropolitan area and one across the river in Camas, Washington.

Deliberate damage can occur at any time of year, as evidenced by events at Lone Fir in June, 2013. A few days before the Association of Gravestone Studies Conference attendees came to tour the historic cemetery in Southeast Portland, vandals knocked over twenty headstones. Lone Fir, founded in 1855, is the permanent home for some of Portland's earliest Settlers, with names like Hawthorne and Lovejoy. Possibly the most

egregious example of cemetery vandalism in the past year occurred in Longmont Colorado, north of Denver. Between early July and mid-August, Mountain View Cemetery was vandalized four times, damaging more than 150 headstones and pushing a 1907 Civil War memorial from its pedestal, breaking off and removing the head (later found near the cemetery). The culprits were 8 young people, 1 girl and 5 boys, age 14-17, a 19 year old and a 21 year old. The damage was estimated to be more than \$20,000 (which seems minimal compared to the amount of destruction). They were charged with felony criminal mischief and misdemeanor desecration of a venerated object and have been referred to a restorative justice program in Colorado.¹ It is to be hoped that part of their work in this program will involve cemeteries.

Large scale destruction tends to rise around Memorial Day or Halloween when public attention is drawn to these spaces. As a result, cemeteries plan special events in October, as well as throughout the year, to spotlight the unique features of these outdoor museums and historical repositories. Many of these events will be tours. They may feature "residents" in period costumes, both influential and everyday citizens, telling stories of their lives, or the tours may focus on fall color in the gardens.

Summerville Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia will honor one of their most important figures of the Revolutionary War, John Milledge, who served as governor, attorney general, and represented Georgia in the U.S. Congress. The Sons of the American Revolution will place a marker at his grave, followed by a posting of the colors, a musket salute and a reception. Later, historic notables of the city will be honored by another event, Historic Augusta's Walk with the Spirits. Spirit guides will lead a 45 minute tour past the "spirits" who will tell the stories about the people they portray. The spirit guides will offer information on the cemetery, Augusta, other graves and the iconography of tombstones as they lead guests around.² Spring Grove cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio, has planned a Halloween concert in their chapel. A double reed quartet will play Michael Jackson's "Thriller," Mussorgsky's "Night on

Bald Mountain”, and other well-known compositions.³ Biloxi, Mississippi, offers self-guided tours; this year’s theme is “Lives of those who changed history.” In Los Angeles, Mountain View Cemetery offers plays in their Mausoleum. This year’s productions are “The Masque of the Red Death” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” At Christmas, families are provided with a clear glass ball to fill with a written note or a picture of their loved one to hang on a large lighted Christmas tree at the cemetery.⁴ Many other groups around the country have evening tours, often called lantern tours, to reenact the lives of historic people in their cemeteries on Halloween night. In Oregon, Jacksonville Historic Cemetery is presenting their 8th annual “Meet the Pioneers” during two nights in October. A torch-light evening tour, this event has been a sell-out every year.⁵ Lone Fir, in Portland, has been doing a “Tour of Untimely Departures” for a number of years. They have also posted volunteers overnight at times, as have other cemeteries, to prevent vandalism.



Ginger & Cliff Beattie in Hillsboro Pioneer Cemetery

Throughout the rest of the year across the nation graveyards are opening their grounds for concerts, clowns, barbecues, and dance performances. The need for support and funding stimulates some of these events but it is widely accepted that public involvement is a deterrent to vandalism. In Atlanta, Oakland Cemetery and Arboretum has gardening and bulb planting events, tours of fall color, classes on monument preservation, Victorian street festivals, and nighttime Halloween tours.⁶ Fairmount Cemetery in Denver, Colorado holds “parties to die for” and big band concerts. Davis Cemetery, in Davis California, plans poetry workshops, bird walks and art shows. A cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska, hosts a Shakespearean festival and rents its chapel for weddings while a Wheatridge, Colorado, cemetery staged a Memorial Day party with fireworks and sky-divers. Hollywood Forever, in Los Angeles, projects films on the mausole-

um walls during the summer.⁷ In Eugene, Oregon, community shape-note sing-alongs are held in the beautiful Hope Abbey Mausoleum throughout the summer months as well as other concerts and art shows.⁸

To be sure, there is criticism about these events. After all, these are sacred grounds. A cemetery in Michigan that has ponds stocked with fish received an irate letter after it organized a fishing derby for special education students. The writer didn’t want her late father disturbed by shrieking kids. Some Oregon cemeteries have had complaints about historic tours. Cemeteries are for the dead and, to have groups of people walking around is disrespectful, some feel. It is also true that the increasing use of cremation has created a need for marketing by cemeteries. So, some of the activities are definitely held with that in mind, but those who plan them would counter complaints by saying that cemeteries should not be a place of gloom and doom or scary, but, instead, an additional green space that people can enjoy visiting.

Indeed, in the 1800’s when the Rural Cemetery movement developed, and graveyards became more like parks, families often visited on weekends for carriage rides, boating or a picnic by a loved one’s grave. Brooklyn’s Greenwood cemetery drew half a million visitors a year in the mid-19th century, comparable to the number of visitors at Niagara Falls.⁹

On the other side of the coin are the neglected graveyards, with broken and damaged headstones, knee-high with grass and weeds and overgrown with blackberry vines. Because it appears that no one cares for them, vandals feel encouraged to treat them with disrespect. Whatever you may think about the appropriateness of some of the activities mentioned in this article, creating a sense of ownership and connection with cemeteries is valuable and helps to ensure that they will be around in the future for genealogists and other researchers, walkers, those who enjoy the art, the wildlife and the plants to be found there and, of course, the family members who want to remember their loved ones.

(Endnote)

1. www.timescall.com/longmont/cemetery
2. <http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2013-10-10/sum-mervillecemetery>
3. <http://www.springgrove.org/events>
4. www.Mountainviewcemetery.org
5. www.friendsjville.org
6. www.oaklandcemetery.com
7. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/cemetery>
8. www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org
9. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/cemetery>

Relics

The Athabascan Migrations

Harvey Steele

The actual number of North American Indians on reservations varies widely but approximately half reside at just a handful of locations. The largest reservation is the Navajo in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. It was home to 143,405 Native Americans in 1990, more than 13 times as many as the Pine Ridge Reservation in Nebraska and South Dakota, the second largest. Needless to say, the Navajo migration to their current locations on the Colorado Plateau constituted one of the longest (in time) and largest (in numbers) of any trek in global history.¹

Unlike any other known migration in North America, the primary evidence for the Navajo movement is based on linguistic analysis (glottochronology or lexicostatistics) of the Athabascan family of languages, with components in the Arctic and Alaska, settlements in Washington, Oregon, California, and possibly the Great Plains, before arrival in the Southwest desert of the United States. This migration took place over an estimated span of 15-20,000 years, although the current phase of settlement on the Colorado Plateau coincides with the period of the Spanish explorer Coronado (about 1520).²

The Beginnings

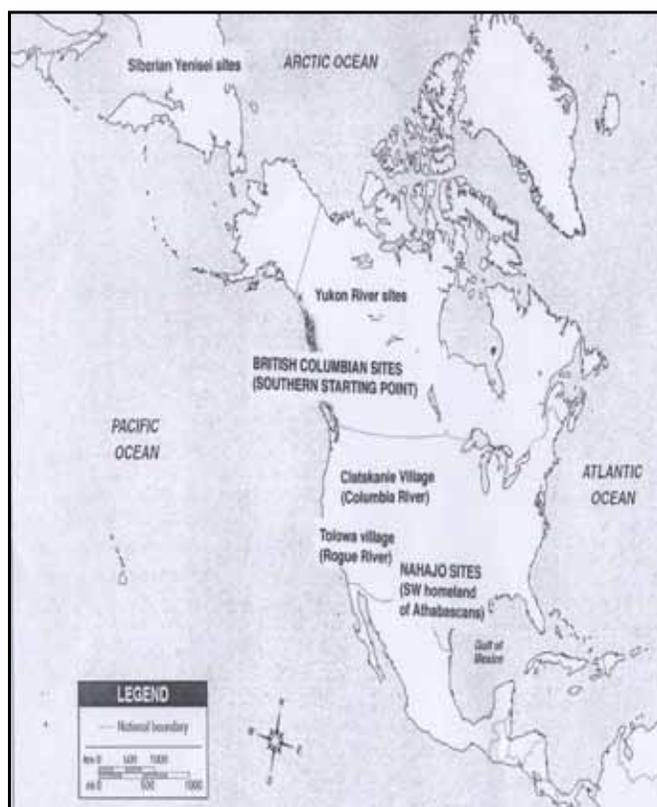
The Athabascan-Dene (A-D) is the largest language family on the continent, stretching from western Alaska south to the Mexican border and early connection with the Yeniseic language family of Central Siberian was proposed very early. Now, as a result of computerized linguistic analysis and DNA research, Professor Edward Vajda of Western Washington University (Bellingham) has demonstrated that a shrinking number of elders of the Ket tribe (located along the Yenisei River) have a language with striking similarity to the earliest Athabascan spoken in Alaska and the Arctic.³

Evidence for the Athabascan migrations.

Unlike the evidence for the conventional human migration patterns, such as written records from the source countries in Asia and Europe, ship's manifests, diaries and other written material, the linguistic evidence for the Athabascan migration was derived from the work of several great linguistic scholars, ethnographers and anthropologists in the late 19th century and early 20th century. These men, following the leads of Franz Boas, Edward Sapir, and Alfred Kroeber, sought to interview living men and women from Indian villages at a time

when many Indians were being herded into reservations. For some of the survivors they interviewed, the word lists was all that remained, since archaeological and other evidence had been largely destroyed or collected haphazardly. My own experiences with Tolowa Athabascan research illustrate the fragmentary nature of the process.⁴

From 1961-1963 I did research at the University of California Berkeley and the campus Kroeber Anthropological Society. I learned to appreciate the legacy of Alfred Kroeber. His quest to understand the movement of native California cultures inspired me to join an Athabascan archaeological survey in Clatskanie on the Columbia River in Oregon in 1979, direct an Athabascan archaeological site at the Marthaller Mint Farm on the Rogue River, Oregon (1981), search for A-D material at the Alaska state library (1990), and finally, locate archives on all A-D sites at the John Wesley Powell Museum and archives at Page, Arizona (2013).



The Language

The A-D people are defined by their language rather than other cultural indicators, such as the technology of their projectile points, the iconology of their rugs and other textile works, or their Kachina dolls. The cultural traits have varied depending on their settlement area in Arctic or Canadian microenvironments and the short-lived sites in Washington and Oregon have also reflected adaptation to local conditions. Instead of one or more cultural trademarks, the A-D people have been traders with a variety of local groups from Yuroks to Spaniards. The Tolowa site excavated in 1981 included materials and artifacts that reflected a wide network of contacts: side-notched projectile points from eastern Oregon, obsidian from central Oregon, and Gunther barbed projectile points, also influenced by northern California contacts. An exquisite fine pipe made from a jade-like mineral, clinochlore, and a carved shell object with a decorative geometric motif similar to Columbia River Chinook designs illustrate the cultural diversity.⁵

Languages can be many things, complex, expressive, creative, etc. and the great linguists who unearthed the A-D patterns found many variations. Word order in A-D is different from English in that the verb is usually the last word in the sentence. This fact has made it relatively easier for translators. Verbs are more complex in A-D, a fact that has made translation more complicated. One trait of A-D is the classificatory system in which verb stems link with the physical condition of the object. Stems contain ideas like handling, throwing, lying in place, etc. as if every object was distinguished or framed by some ongoing process. This has been noted by some linguists as making the A-D languages consistent with modern physics, especially quantum theory, which emphasizes process rather than static being for ordinary objects. A-D has many other complex linguistic attributes, which linguists of the 20th century have used to link remaining speakers, most located in the American southwest, with northern Canada dialects.⁶

Settlement patterns

The North American homeland may have been concentrated in present-day Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia where many A-D languages and dialects still remain. Some can be traced to movements as early as 2000 years before the present and even to the Yenisei River Ket tribe in east central Siberia. Northern versions of A-D ventured south to locations in Oregon and Washington but some ventured no further south than the present Oregon-California border. A larger Southern branch seems to be ancestors of the large Navajo and Apache settlements in the American desert. DNA

research has been applied to this issue and suggests that this Southern branch (Alaska and British Columbia) may account for 80% or more of the great migration. Gene flow across linguistic boundaries has proven to be a useful tool that may dominate future research.

The Clatskanie site

The Columbia River town of Clatskanie was the site of an Athabascan village which had been contacted by members of the Astor party in 1811. By 1825 the population was about 175, which was reduced to 13 by 1851 and eight by 1857. Fortunately, anthropologists managed to identify the language family and link it to a more populous branch, Kwalhioqua, in central Washington. It was the dialect that migrated from Southern British Columbia south to southern Oregon.⁷

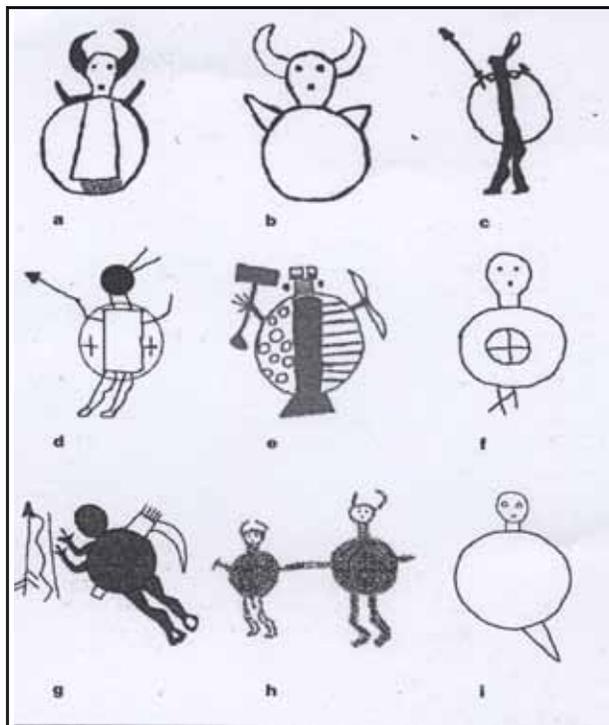
No known speakers were known when I visited the site in 1979, but ethnographic evidence allowed the survey party to locate the remains of the village on a high hill overlooking the Columbia about a mile above the modern town. The view was great but the leader of our survey party noted that the Chinook tribes controlled that part of the river at that time and they were known to make slaves of Indian groups who remained in their territory. Michael E. Krauss of the University of Alaska has summarized the historical and linguistic evidence for this group.⁸

The Marthaller Mint Farm site

In 1981 Lyman Deich of the Bureau of Land Management invited the Oregon Archaeological Society to excavate an Athabascan village site near the confluence of the Rogue River and the Applegate River in southern Oregon. I was designated the site director and wrote a contract report for the BLM in 1984. From past work on the Rogue we predicted we were excavating an Athabascan Tolowa village with an estimated age range from 1500 to 500 years before the present. 42 5x5 feet units were completed during the summer, until the discovery of burial remains were discovered. For this reason we had to cease excavation and turn the burial over to the Native American group with site jurisdiction, the Cow Creek Umpqua.⁹

From the range of artifacts (and the structure of several hearths) we determined that the villagers were trading with a variety of neighboring tribes, including, probably, members of other language groups. Projectile points included two types, Gunther barbed (Yurok type) and Desert side-notched (Takelma type), from opposite ends of the large Tolowa domain. Other clues, a clinochlore pipe, obsidian tools, and an engraved shell, also indicated widespread travel and trade. From our limited vantage

point we deduced that the villagers had the characteristic Athabascan adaptability (and trade connections) found as far north as Alaska and as far south as central Arizona.¹⁰



Navajo Petroglyph Styles

Dinetah

The ancestral heartland of the Navajo, an area in Northwestern New Mexico, was believed to be the area of settlement when the first Athabascans came to the desert about 1520. The actual entry details remain unclear but an extensive occupation occurred in the 1500-1700 period. Later, the abandonment of that area is considered a turning point in Navajo history. A severe drought in 1748 (known from tree ring analysis) is often cited as crucial but another factor, the increasing predations of the Ute Indians, was a strong event, too, as noted in the numerous archival accounts in the library of the Powell Museum at Page Arizona. Those archives also show accounts of a period of brief returns to Dinetah, perhaps to determine whether conditions had changed.¹¹

Page, Arizona

The last Athabascan site on this itinerary is at Page, Arizona. It is the Powell Museum on the edge of modern Lake Powell. Rather than decorated rugs and Kachina dolls, the highlight is a valuable archival library, with material from the A- D sites in Siberia, the Arctic, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, the Great Plains, and the states of the Colorado Plateau. Curator Kimberly Keisling outlined the various categories, from linguistics to ethnography, that tell the A-D story. "The migration

is a huge story," she noted, "and much of it is untold." It is only 2013, I think, and, given the many scattered fragments of information on the migration, much more to do.

As the linguistic and archaeological work proceeds, the mystery remains of how one people could survive so completely in a variety of diverse microenvironments.

As I visited the various desert settlements in 2013 (archives, museums, and settlements) I contrasted the moderate climates of the Columbia and Rogue rivers with the barren sandstone Colorado River, certainly a dry and unforgiving channel. Then it struck me that the rivers remain as a hallmark of this Navajo nation. In many thousands of years they have encountered several great rivers, the bleak Siberian Yenisei, the inhospitable Yukon, the broad Columbia, the wild and scenic Rogue, and finally the magnificent but unconquerable Grand Canyon of the raging Colorado. The Athabascans may yet be best measured by the great rivers they have surmounted.

(Endnotes)

1. M. Shumway and R. Jackson, *Native American Populations Geographical Review* Vol. 85 No. 2 (April 1995) 185-201. The word Athabascan comes from the Cree name for a river in Canada and is spelled many ways, Athabaskan -paskan, paskin, -baskin, etc. The group in the Southwest calls itself Na-Dene ("the people") in Navajo and many consider the Athabascans to be their instant relatives in Northwest Canada or Alaska. Most linguists consider the Na-Dene name to be a language family rather than a cultural group.
2. J. O. Brew, *Transition to History in the Pueblo Southwest*, *American Anthropologist* Vol. 56 No 4 (August 1954) 599-603
3. Edward Spicer 1954: 602
4. Ronald Towner, *The Archaeology of Navajo Origins*. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press) 1996
5. James Vanstone, *Athabascan Adaptations*, (Chicago: Aldine Publishing Company) 1
6. Melville Jacobs, *Historic Perspectives in Indian Languages of Oregon and Washington*, *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (January 1937) 55-74
7. Michael E. Krauss, Kwalhioqua and Clatskanie, in *Handbook of North American Indians*: Vol. 7, Northwest Coast (Washington DC: Smithsonian) 1990:530-532
8. Michael Krauss 1990: 531-532
9. Harvey Steele, *The Marthaller Site* (Portland, Oregon: Oregon Archaeological Society) 1984
10. Richard Gould, *The Wealth Quest among the Tolowa Indians of Northwestern California*, *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 110 No. 1 (Feb. 18, 1966) 67-89
11. Ronald Towner, *The Navajo Depopulation of Dinetah*. *Journal of Anthropological Research* Vol. 64, No. 4, (Winter 2008) 511-527

Extracts

Bulletin Cemetery Records Extracts and Indexes 1957-2001

Information about cemeteries from various locations became regular items in the Bulletin. Listings of Oregon Cemeteries by counties began in February 1957. The indexes for burials in cemeteries are listed by the date they were published and include:

- Bethel Cemetery in Perry County, Ohio by Florence and Carl Main, October thru December 1955.
- Baker Prairie Cemetery at Canby, Oregon, April thru June 1956.
- The Gregg Family Cemetery by Willis G. Corbitt, April 1960.
- Evergreen Cemetery, Fairfield, Iowa by Willis G. Corbitt, September 1960.
- Edgar Cemetery, Paris, Illinois by Willis G. Corbitt, November 1960.
- Pendleton Cemetery, Canby, Clackamas County, Oregon by Fred B. Owen, September 1962.
- Trullinger Cemetery by Fred B. Owen, December 1962.
- Lone Fir Cemetery, Longbeach, Pacific County, Washington by Fred B. Owen, January 1963.
- Old Monument Cemetery, Monument, Grant County, Oregon, April 1963.
- Forrester Cemetery Records, Eagle Creek, Oregon, September 1963.
- Private Cemetery Plot on Snyder Saylor DLC, April 1964.
- Willow Creek Cemetery, Denmark, Curry County, Oregon by M. S. Brainard, January 1965.
- Epitaphs from Fort Thomas Cemetery in Arizona by Col. and Mrs. James L. Bolt, February 1965.
- Graves of Wolfe Cemetery of the J. V. Grenshaw Family, two miles north of Meadowview, Virginia, March 1965.
- Inscriptions from Yellow Creek Presbyterian Cemetery, Wellsville, Ohio, by Hammund Crawford, October 1965.
- Foster Cemetery, Umatilla County, Oregon by David D. Tribble, February 1965.
- Lost Cemetery of Umatilla County, Oregon, March 1965.
- Baumgardner Cemetery of Umatilla County, Oregon, March 1965.
- Merrill Lake Cemetery, Deer Island with a map, by Blythe Gaittens Carey, September 1966.
- Drakes Creek Cemetery, Madison County, Arkansas, December 1966.
- Bowlus Cemetery, Umatilla County, Oregon, June 1967.
- Clatsop Plains Pioneer Cemetery, Astoria Chapter of DAR in 1931, September 1967.
- Sunset Cemetery, Burns, Harney County, Oregon, January 1967.
- Abandoned Cemetery in Morrow County, Oregon, March 1967.
- Buckeye Cemetery, Arkansas, April 1967.
- Government Hill Indian Cemetery, Siletz, Oregon, October 1969.
- Military Cemetery, Fort Boise Park, Boise, Idaho by Richard L. Maus, November 1969 and February 1970.
- Burton Cemetery, Lincoln County, Oregon, March 1970.
- List of Marked Graves in Cemetery, Smith River, Del Norte County, California, April and May 1970.
- The Clay Street or Pioneer Cemetery, Fairbanks, Alaska, June 1970.

Pacific Slope Removals by Mrs. R. W. McKay, January thru March 1972.

Grange Cemetery, Lane County, Oregon by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Paul Foley, September 1972.

Harmony Cemetery, Greenup, Cumberland County, Illinois by Mrs. Marvin P. Foley, November 1973.

Some Interesting Burials at Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland, Oregon, May and November 1975.

The Reeves Pioneer Burial Ground 1848-1886 by Josiah B. Stauffer, December 1975; DAR Benton County, Oregon abandoned cemetery corrected January 1976.

Victims of the Heppner Flood, July 14, 1903, Heppner Cemetery by Frances Griffin, May 1978.

Unidentified Cemetery List of Burials, June 1985.

Early Catholic Burials in Portland by Connie Lenzen, CGRS, December 1985.

Columbia County, Cemetery Records by Aileen Viles, December 1985.

Marion County, Cemetery Records by Nancy Richings, Jean Custer, Daraleen Wade, March 1986.

Dibble Cemetery, Molalla, Clackamas County, Oregon, June 1986.

Lane County Cemetery, Danish Cemetery Inscriptions by Wallace Ruel Bingham, June 1987.

Lone Fir Cemetery Records 1846 to June 1881 by Connie Lenzen, CGRS, December 1991; June thru December 1992; March thru December 1993; March thru December 1994; June and December 1995; March thru December 1996; March, June and December 1997; March thru December 1998; March thru December 1999; March thru December 2000; and March 2001.

Sweet Home Cemetery, Lane County, Oregon, June 1992.

Gallaher Cemetery, Umatilla County, Oregon by Joyce Hales, September 1992.

Sweet Home Goldsom Cemetery Corrections, Lane County, Oregon, December 1992.

Lee Mission Cemetery 1852-1925 by Janice M. Healy, September and December 1993, June and September 1994.

Book Reviews

Scott, Francis and Anne Cipriani Webb. *Who is Markie? The Life of Martha Custis Williams Carter, Cousin and Confidante of Robert E. Lee*. Francis Scott and Anne Cipriani Webb. Heritage Books, Westminster, Maryland, 2007.

Audience: Born in 1827 - died 1899, "Markie" was Martha Washington's great-great granddaughter, cousin to Robert E. Lee's wife, and a confidante of General Lee; also of Dr. Austin Flint, a pioneer of heart research; Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte, wife of Napoleon's youngest brother, Jerome; and Blanche Berard, a well known writer of US histories used in schools.

Purpose: The Huntington Library published a volume of letters of Robert E. Lee entitled *Letters to Markie*. This book is a response to the question, who is Markie? And is written entirely from correspondence of her and her contemporaries.

Author's Qualifications: Francis Scott transcribed the diaries of Martha Custis Williams Carter (Markie); Anne Cipriani Webb was the archivist for Tudor Place, the birthplace of Markie. Anne Webb, along with her husband, Willard J. Webb, a historian for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote *The Glebe Houses of Colonial Virginia*, a compilation of the plantation houses allotted to church ministers by law. Anne Webb also wrote a number of pamphlets for the Arlington Historical Society.

Content: Markie's life spanned most of the nineteenth century. She connected with many prominent people of the era including Robert E. Lee. Her correspondence, her diaries and those of her contemporaries, give us a remarkable insight into the lives and culture of the middle nineteenth century. A southern sympathizer, she happily married a Yankee hero, Admiral Samuel Powhatan Carter. This book emanated from the Tudor Place and the Arlington House (Robert E. Lee's) archives. The family was always proud of its relationship to George Washington and made an effort to curate the artifacts and the papers associated with the Tudor Place, originally purchased by Martha Parke Custis, Martha Washington's granddaughter, and her husband, Thomas Peter.

Life in mid nineteenth century Washington, DC was an explosive mix of growth, political change, and eventually, war and its aftermath. A frequenter of

Presidential times and places, Markie was essentially "homeless" until marrying Admiral Carter. It is her sojourn with many friends and family that gives us this wonderful glimpse of life at that time.

Accuracy: This book is written strictly from diaries, letters and official documents, thereby lending enormous credibility to its accuracy.

Conclusion: With wonderful explanations of meaning and context interwoven between actual documentation, this book is charming to read; and provides an excellent resource for both genealogist (the myriad of American family interconnections) and historian (insights into the "mind" of Robert E. Lee, the general who orchestrated so much of the Civil War from the southern side). It is well worth the read.

JG

Dorothy Williams Potter, *Old Southwest Genealogy Research, Genealogy at a Glance, Genealogy Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 2013, 4 pages.*

Audience: In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the area of the present southeastern United States encompassed a large of amount of Indian and foreign held land. Pre-statehood settlers generated a vast amount of records, and this guide is designed to help you find those records.

Purpose: Locating pre-statehood records in the Old Southwest area.

Author's qualifications: She is the author or editor of over 100 historical and genealogical publications since 1966 including, *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers 1770-1823, Indian, Spanish and Other Land Passports for Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia, North and South Carolina.*

Content: Beginning with Quick Facts, the author includes Settlement Background that includes Spanish Occupation, Indian Relations, Territorial Organization, Earliest Migratory Paths and Main Travel Routes. Under Major Genealogical Sources there are American State Papers and Passport Records; lists of Major Document Collections and their locations; and a bibliography of Further References including online sources.

Organization: There is a brief overview of the history of the area and the various groups of people who both populated and owned the land as well as their interaction with those in the formal American states.

followed by lists of documentation collections in books, libraries, etc.

Accuracy: Since the actual documentation is provided along with the information, it is reasonable to assume this guide and references for sources is accurate.

Conclusion: This is an excellent resource with great documentation for those researching ancestors and history in pre-state United States in the Florida-to-Mississippi area.

JG

***Bliss Family to Jonas Family: 1530-2012. A Single Bloodline of Fathers and Sons through Thirteen Generations with a Mayflower Connection* by Karl Robert Jonas. Published for the author by Otter Bay Books, LLC, 3507 Newland Road, Baltimore, Md. 21218-2513. www.otterbay-books.com. All purchases and inquiries direct to Karl R. Jonas, 28 Chickadee Lane, Sunapee, NH 03782. Email: krjonas@comcast.net.**

Audience: In a general sense this book depicts the lives of average Americans from their journeys from the 1500's to the current generations. It has evolved from father to son through almost 500 years with documentation. Specific family members will enjoy this book as well as history buffs.

Purpose: According to Mr. Jonas "this work is intended to be a companion piece to the previously-published *Rogers Family to Jonas Family* genealogy". Jonas is the name of Karl's adoptive parents. After fifty years he traced his birth family, the Rogers, from 1510 to 2010, starting in England as did the Bliss family. Both books are in our library.

Together these genealogies will provide the generations that follow us with a clearer picture of their family roots," wrote Karl.

Author's Qualifications: Karl Jonas has documented his facts with voluminous endnotes which he places at the end of each chapter. This book makes reference often to the earlier book regarding the Rogers family. This appears to have been a labor of love for his birth family and his wife, Donna's family.

Content: Taken together these books are records of conditions in 1500 England such as Henry VIII breaking with the Papacy, the rise of Puritanism, the beginning of individual political ambitions and expectations of freedom, and perhaps success in a different environment (i.e., the North American continent). The books include

as much details as probably could be handed down through the generations. The Bliss family lived in New England until the early 1900's, thus providing an atmosphere of stories, properties and documentations that assisted in the writing. Each person appears to have both "stories", vital records and or other genealogies that have been compiled. With such a plethora of information it is possible to trace from father to son both property and familial connections for most of their entire lives. Again being a rich source for anyone generally interested in "lifestyles" of pilgrims, puritans, and New England farm families.

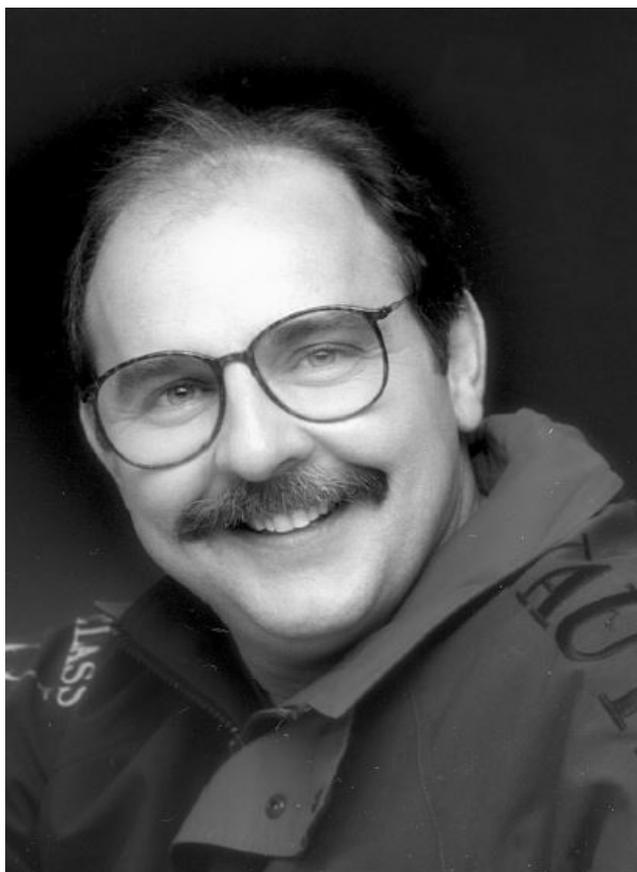
Accuracy: Much of the people listed in this book are listed in vital records, property records, military records, Bibles, personal accounts, census, etc. Mr. Jonas does not guarantee accuracy but suggests everyone should check any fact that they are interested in.

Conclusion: This book and its companion on the Roger's family (the birth family of Mr. Jonas) provides tremendous insight into the settlement of the United States, particularly in the New England area. The process of property buying and selling, the acquiring of better and better educations and the regard with which many of these family members were held, does indeed suggest that this was a land of opportunity and these people were acquiring the tools to enjoy the life that they had been given. The author does not dwell on nor does he deal with any scandals or scurrilous stories. It develops a positive narrative of the family that should be a joy to read.

JG

*On Memoriam***Richard (Rick) W. Slavens**

17 December 1948—11 October 2013



After battling cancer for five years, Rick passed away in his home with Paula at his side (his wife of 23 years). Born in Seattle, Rick spent weekends and summer months in Beaverton with his aunt and uncle. He left high school graduation ceremonies with suitcase in hand, intending to make Beaverton his permanent home. One year later, Japan became Rick's home base as an electronic instrumentation specialist in the Air Force, where he built and maintained radar antenna for guiding troops into Guam and remote parts of Asia.

Rick's post-military career included work at Tektronix, the Multnomah County Library, and in Oregon and Canadian-based companies for computer sales, software, and customer service. His passions included photography, history, and genealogy. He helped found the Genealogical Society of Washington County, and served as consultant to museums in Tigard, Tualatin, and Hillsboro, as well as board officers for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, and the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association. He also volunteered in counseling and supporting veterans, donated time and resources to Bethel UCC's food cupboard, and helped provide for homeless Beaverton High School students.

Parents Eldon and Geneva Slavens, aunt and uncle Pansy and Desmond O'Brien, and brothers Ken and Tom Slavens, preceded Rick in death. He is survived by

his wife Paula Slavens, brother Frank Slavens, and cousins Sheila Glass and Sharon Fatland.

Rick leaves a legacy of a never-give-up attitude as he battled his disease and strived to get as much out of life as his failing body would allow. His supportive faith community at Bethel UCC, cherished family and friends, and a remarkable team at Hospice Care of the Northwest nurtured his body and his soul during this difficult time. Rest in peace, dear Rick. Yours was a hard-won battle. We will miss those twinkly blue eyes until we meet again in Heaven.

A memorial service to celebrate Rick's life was held at Bethel UCC on Watson Street, Beaverton, at 2 PM on Saturday November 23. Remembrances may be made to Hospice Care of the Northwest and to Bethel UCC for its continued efforts to help people in need.

Carol Surrency

Rick Slavens was full of enthusiasm and creative ideas. He was friendly and gregarious with a high energy approach and a positive outlook to life. Charter members of the Washington County Genealogical Society, Rick and his wife, Paula, were actively involved in the development and progress of the society. Rick was affiliated with GFO also; he helped develop a microfilm scanner that he donated to the Forum and the large pedigree chart currently gracing the wall was printed, I believe, in his garage while he and Paula were involved in writing and printing family histories as a business. Other than in the GSWCO, my main contact with Rick was during our tenure on the board of the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association. Rick loved old cemeteries and, together with other board members, we visited a number of them around the state. So, I think of Rick on those trips, cheerful and joking, in short, a person who was fun to be around.

In Memoriam

Shannon Schaefer



Fridays at the GFO library are a little lonelier than they used to be—the same for Sunday mornings. We lost a good friend and volunteer with Shannon Schaefer's sudden and unexpected passing.

Shannon served the Genealogical Forum of Oregon with devotion and considerable skill. Those of us who had the pleasure of working with her relied on her knowledge of genealogical research and technology to help the patrons we served. She made all the Research Assistants look good in her quiet way.

Shannon had researched her own family for many years. Not only did she have fine researching skills, she had a keen memory. One day, a gentleman tried to locate his family in Hungary. A village's

name popped onto the screen, and he asked about it. Before I could suggest we look up the place in one of our many resources, Shannon discussed the site in amazing detail. And how did she know that? "Oh," she replied to our queries, "I saw that on *Who Do You Think You Are*." Of course, we had all seen the program, too; but we failed to retain the name of the town.

We miss Shannon tremendously. She was a delight to all who knew her. We will miss Shannon's professionalism, talents, and personality. She brightened the days we worked with her and she presented a wonderful face for the GFO to our patrons and the public.

Judith Leppert and Joan Galles:

I was shocked and saddened to hear of Shannon's passing. She was such a wonderful person and a great asset to the GFO organization. It was a pleasure to work with her on Fridays. She was the perfect person to have at the front desk, personable, knowledgeable and helpful.

Shannon was part of a team of three, including Judith Leppert and me, who discovered the likely burial place of Rosa Ella Conner. Shannon took the research a bit farther and was able to piece together the Conner family from their migration from Ohio to land claims in Polk County and their later resettlement in the McMinnville area. She was most adept in the use of the Ancestry.com website and that made all the difference in our identification of Rosa Ella's parents and her final resting place. She was in the process of arranging a trip to McMinnville to view the gravesite and to see what evidence there might be of a missing gravestone when she died.

Larry Robbins:

Shannon was usually the first to arrive for the Sunday work parties in the library. It's tough now, going in and finding the library dark and empty. Always helpful, and so competent, she embraced whatever the task put to her. Her greeting, "What are we working on today?" was always accompanied by a big smile and her can-do attitude. We miss you Shannon, and we hope you are at peace.

Parking Alert!

Parking in the lot adjoining the Ford Building is now limited to **2 hours for all spaces.**

Cars staying longer are being towed. The other lots remain as before, but are filling up more quickly.

Restrictions apply 7:30 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday only.

Parking lot will **not** be monitored after 6 pm or on the weekends.

Honor your Union Veteran during the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War by becoming a member of:

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865

If you are a female descendant of a Union Veteran, please contact:

Perri Pitman Parker
Oregon Department
President
pitt1842@aol.com



Are you a woman with an ancestor born in New England before 1789?

A new Colony is forming in Oregon for:

The National Society of New England Women

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If you would like more information, Please contact:

Janice b. Heckethorne
Organizing Colony President
JBHeckethorne@gmail.com

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Oregon Burial Site Guide

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Co-compiled by Stanley R. Clarke
and Janice M. Healy

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