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THE BULLETIN

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Letter from the Editor . . .

This has been a most interesting issue to work on. Many people have contributed their expertise with articles covering a range of topics. We have five guest writers who wrote feature articles. Larry Jensen, AG, a well-known expert in German research, wrote for us about the basis of our German and American Heritage after persuasion by Connie Lenzen. Mark Wiltgen, five-year President of the German American Society of Portland, Oregon, authored an article on the history of early Germans in Oregon and the society they formed in Portland. Anne Leptich AG, shared her knowledge on the Meyers Orts Gazetteer, one tool she uses extensively in her German research. Mildred Griffith Wallace and her second cousin Mariam Bluhm Martinsen share the history of their Moehnke family ancestors who helped to settle Beaver Creek, Oregon. GFO member Tom O'Brien wrote a helpful article entitled The Rewards of German Research, which is an area of special interest to him that he has pursued for many years. He included a fantastic list of websites to help us in our research.

The GFO writing contest first place winner, Bonnie LaDoe, shares with us the fascinating story of the family of Mary Upton, who traveled from Shelby, Missouri, to Oregon.

Under the columns we have an article by Larry Sullivan that provides information on the tools we have on our own GFO website. An article by Jayne T. Frink, a reprint shared with us by the Umatilla County Historical Society Museum, provides a history of the Kay/Bishop family and the Pendleton Woolen Mills. The Pendleton Woolen Mills Company generously shared some great pictures with us. Harvey Steele wrote about his German immigrant ancestors and their occupations as shoemakers, which is intriguing to me as I have some shoemakers in my ancestral line. We have a piece on researching in Benton County, Oregon, by Linda Olsen, which points out some great resources.

For me, German research is both compelling and yet intimidating. I have several German lines in my ancestry and I have also worked with several people on their German lines. Moving across the water is the challenging part. Once there, I have felt what Tom mentions in his article about the excitement of exploring where ancestors lived and the culture there. Some of that culture can be experienced locally when we are aware of ongoing activities.

Fortunately good family historians have gathered some of the material for me. The key to our genealogy research is knowing where to find that material. My German ancestors arrived in two different time periods, early 1700s and mid 1800s. They left behind family and friends who they would never see again. Whether they traveled in family groups or individually, many eventually paved the way for others to come. Knowing that part of the family history helps us to understand our ancestors and their influence on us even today. The German culture is truly a major part of the culture in the United States. Many of us have been impacted by it through our ancestors or from the benefits of those who helped to establish this country. With the help of this publication, I feel inspired to move forward on lines that I have left to linger far too long. I hope you feel the same inspiration about your ancestors, wherever they came from and wherever they settled.

Susan Olsen LeBlanc, AG

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Feature Article

Our German/American Heritage

Larry O. Jensen, AG

Background

In preparation for taking a trip to Juneau, Alaska I found a book entitled "The Founding of Juneau" by R. N. De Armond¹ in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The book told about a mining engineer from Saxony Germany by the name of George E. Pilz. In 1880, Pilz was in Sitka Alaska and grubstaked several men including Richard T. Harris and Joseph Juneau to check for mining possibilities along the Gastineau Channel. They discovered gold at a place which was first named Harrisburg and later in 1882 changed to Juneau. The discovery quickly drew miners, prospectors and others. In his book De Armond identified 300 individuals in Juneau between 1880 and 1881, with at least 15% of them identified as being German or having German surnames. Alaska was under Russian Rule until purchased by the United States in August 1868. The following are the jurisdictional changes for Alaska:

Department of Alaska 1868 – 1884
 District of Alaska 1884 – 1912
 Territory of Alaska 1912 – 1959
 State of Alaska 3 January 1959

Because of my interest in German genealogical research, the following questions came to mind:

1. How does the number of Germans in Juneau and in Alaska compare to other nationalities based on the 1900 census?
2. Do naturalization records agree with the census findings?
3. How does the number of Germans in the District of Alaska compare with the rest of the United States in 1900?
4. What does the U. S. 2000 census indicate concerning current percentage of Germans and other nationalities for the U. S. in general and Alaska specifically?
5. What impact has this had on our American culture?

Juneau 1900 Federal Census: percentages:²

In going through the 1900 census for Juneau I determined the following percentages of ancestry:

German 20.3%	Irish 19.6%
English 18.3%	Swedish 8.2%
Norwegian 8%	Finnish 7.1%
Scottish 4.9%	Italian 2.8%

Russian 2.2%	Austrian 2.1%
French 2.1%	Japanese 2%
Danish 1.4%	Swiss 1%

Alaska 1900 Federal Census Ancestry percentages:³

After completing the census for Juneau I went through the 1900 census for the rest of Alaska with the following results:

German 17%	Irish 15%
Canadian 15%	Swedish 14%
Norwegian 12%	English 11%
Scottish 6%	Finnish 5%
Italian 4%	French 1%

Alaska Naturalization Records⁴

Was the number of Germans in Alaska also represented in the naturalization records? A search of these records from 1888 to 1972, at the state archive at Juneau determined that the naturalization records did not accurately reflect the ethnicity of Alaska since it did not identify those who chose not to naturalize or those who obtained their naturalization in a different U.S. state.

US 1900 Federal Census (States with predominantly German Ancestry)

The next question is how do the Alaska statistics compare with the rest of the United States in 1900? For this answer I went to the Bureau of Census, Statistical Atlas of the United States published in 1903⁵ and found the following states were predominantly of German ancestry:

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Out of the 48 states in 1900, 27 plus Alaska were predominantly German. There really were more Germans than any other nationality.

U.S. 2000 Federal Census

Was this still true by 2000? On Wikipedia I found an article under the heading "Racial makeup of the U.S. population"⁶ This article stated that based on the 2000 census "German Americans made up 17.1% of the U.S. population followed by Irish Americans at 12%." A map showing race and ethnicity by state was included in the

article. The map identified each state and its predominant race and ethnicity. The following information was taken from that map:

German (23 states)

Alaska	Colorado	Florida
Idaho	Illinois	Indiana
Iowa	Kansas	Michigan
Minnesota	Missouri	Montana
Nebraska	Nevada	North Dakota
Ohio	Oklahoma	Oregon
Pennsylvania	South Dakota	Washington
Wisconsin	Wyoming	

African American (9 states)

Alabama	Delaware	Georgia
Louisiana	Maryland	Mississippi
North Carolina	South Carolina	Virginia

Mexican [Hispanic] (4 states)

Arizona	California	New Mexico
Texas		

Italian (4 states)

Connecticut		
New Jersey	New York	Rhode Island

American (4 states)

Arkansas	Kentucky	Tennessee
West Virginia		

English (3 states)

Maine	Utah	Vermont
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Irish (2 states)

Massachusetts	New Hampshire	
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Hawaiian (1 state)

Hawaii

(The term "American" as used here does not mean Native American. Like the other states, the majority of the ancestors of these states also came from foreign countries. However, the inhabitants of these states chose to be recognized as being American. It is interesting to note that they were states that were either just above or below the Mason Dixon Line, which divided the free states in the North and the slavery states in the South.)

Observations:

The city of Juneau reflects the same ethnicity of mixed nationalities as the state of Alaska and with the same high percentage of Germans. Based on both the 1900 and the 2000 Federal Censuses, Alaska is a perfect reflection of the ethnicity of America. It is a melting pot of various nationalities whose cultures have impacted Alaska as well as our country in many wonderful and interesting ways including of course the culture of so many Germans.

German Cultural Impact in America

There is not an aspect of the American culture that has not been impacted by immigrant Germans. The fol-

lowing are a few of the more prominent ones:

John Jacob Astor (July 17, 1763, Waldorf, Baden, Germany – March 29, 1848) fur trader

Emile Berliner (May 20, 1851, Hannover, Germany – August 3, 1929) invented gramophone

Leopold Damrosch (22 October 1832, Posen, Prussia, Germany – 15 February 1885) New York symphony

Albert Einstein (14 March 1879, Ulm, Württemberg, Germany – 13 April 1955) physicist (theory of relativity)

Arthur Flegenheimer [Dutch Schulz] (August 6, 1902 – October 23, 1935) gangster

Ludwig Heinrich Gehrig [Lou Gehrig] (June 19, 1903, Yorkville, Manhattan, New York – June 2 1941) baseball player and son of German immigrants

Johann Christian Gottlieb Graupner (October 6, 1767, Hannover, Germany – April 16, 1836) father of orchestral music in America

Abraham Jacobi (May 6, 1830, Hartum, Westfalen, Germany - July 10, 1919) father of American Pediatrics

William Knabe (June 3, 1803, Creuzburg, Sachsen-Weimar – May 21, 1864) piano maker

Carl Laemmle, (January 17, 1867, Laupheim, Württemberg, Germany – September 24, 1939) established Universal Studios

Emmanuel Leutze (May 24, 1816, Gmund, Württemberg, Germany – July 18, 1868) artist (Washington crossing the Delaware)

Ottmar Mergenthaler (May 11, 1854, Hachtel, Württemberg, Germany – October 28, 1899) inventor of linotype machine

Thomas Nast (September 27, 1840, Landau, Bavaria, Germany – December 7, 1902) artist created the elephant and donkey mascots for Democratic and Republican parties

Louis Prang (March 12, 1824 Breslau, Schlesien, Prussia, Germany – June 14, 1909) father of the American Christmas card

Heinrich Friedrich August Rüngeling (November 24, February 16, 1826, Hannover, Germany – February 16, 1898) his sons formed the Ringling Brothers Circus

Johann Augustus Röbling (June 12, 1806, Mühlhausen, Prussia, Germany, - July 22, 1869) engineer, invented wire cables which he used in building the Brooklyn and other suspension bridges

Heinrich Engelhard Steinweg [Steinway] (February 17, 1797, Wolfshagen, Braunschweig, Germany, - February 7, 1771) piano maker

Friederich Weyerhauser (November 21, 1834, Nieder Saulheim, Hessen, Germany – April 4, 1914) known as the Lumber King

A lot of Americans don't know they are of German descent because countless Germans changed their names after arriving in America. In many cases the name became anglicized or written the way it was pronounced (Cuntz became Coons and Kemper became Camper). Others translated their name from German to English (Schneider became Taylor and Müller became Miller). Because of two world wars with Germany, it became unpopular to be German. Streets, communities and people's names were changed. Then there were those who did it for professional reasons like the following:

Eleanor Geisman became *June Allyson*

Betty Joan Perske became *Lauren Bacall*

Doris Kappelhoff became *Doris Day*

Henry John Deutschendorf became *John Denver*

Robert Alan Zimmermann became *Bob Dylan*

Louella Oettinger became *Louella Parsons*

Shirley Schrift became *Shelly Winters*

Sarah Jane Fulks became *Jane Wyman*

Gretchen Belzer became *Loretta Young*

Most of us, whose ancestors have been in America more than two or three generations, trace our lineages back to more than one foreign country.

For myself, I am comfortable being an American and a part of its mixed ethnicity since my ancestors came from Northern Ireland, England, Denmark, Swe-

den and of course from Germany.

(Endnotes)

1 De Armond, R. N. *The Founding of Juneau*. College Place: Gastineau Channel Centennial Association, 1980.

2 United States. Census Office. 12th census, 1900, Alaska, 1900 federal census: soundex and population schedules (Washington, District of Columbia: The National Archives, [19--?]), microfilm

3 (ibid.)

4 Alaska State Archives. Alaska State Naturalization Index, (Juneau, Alaska The Alaska State Archives, 2010).

5 United States. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Atlas of the United States, (Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1903). plates nos. 65-69.

6 Racial makeup of the U.S. population. August 2010. <http://en.

Larry O. Jensen, Accredited Genealogist, is manager of the International reference Unit at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has over 35 years of experience in German genealogical research and has lectured extensively on German family research throughout the United States and Canada. He is the author of Maps of the German Empire of 1871, the two volume set A Genealogical Handbook of German Research, and numerous articles in the German Genealogical Digest. Mr. Jensen is recognized as one of the country's foremost authorities in German genealogy

Moehnke Family Passenger Record

Meyers-Orts: THE Gazetteer for German Research

Anne Leptich, AG

Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs or in English, Meyers Gazetteer of the German Empire is the premier finding aid for any settlement within the borders of the German Empire of 1912. The edition commonly used is the 5th edition, which was published in 1912-1913. The original edition was published in 1871, and the place names of 1871 are used in the Family History Library catalog locality listings for Germany. The publishing date is important since the borders remained in a similar pattern for some time. It refers to the borders of the Empire before the moving, carving and renaming process that started with the 20th century wars and eventually become the Germany of today. It includes more than 210,000 cities, towns, and villages.

Gazetteers are an important part of family history research. When you can pinpoint the specific place, you will be able to discover the jurisdictions and time periods for the creation of records pertaining to your ancestors and their neighbors.

WHERE TO FIND THE MEYERS-ORTS:

Ancestry.com offers the Meyers-Orts in a fully searchable, FREE site. This site will be found in a Google search as one of the first choices available. The search also produces several blog spots that might be helpful with personal experience stories and research tips. Some sites will list and explain the abbreviations used in the body of the book. The full abbreviation key is listed at the beginning of the first volume. Other sites will give a key to help with the recognition and reading of the old Gothic typeface, and dictionary for some of the common German words used in the book. I did mention that it is a German book, written in German and published in Germany.

HELP WITH READING AND UNDERSTANDING THE MEYERS-ORTS:

I struggled with the Meyers-Orts for many years and basically waited for research trips to the Family History Library where I could have the International staff help me with finding and reading entries in the Gazetteer.

Then in 2000 I found a pamphlet written by Fay S. Dearden and published by the Family Tree Press. This 19 page work is, *Understanding Meyers Orts: Translating Guide for the Directory of the Towns and Places in the German Empire*.

In 2003, Wendy K. Uncapher wrote *How to Read & Understand Meyers Orts-und Verkehrs-Lexikon des*

Deutschen Reichs, published by Origins in Janesville, Wisconsin and is neatly contained in 24 pages.

How to Use the Meyers Gazetteer and Handwriting Guide: German Gothic are FHL Research guides that can be downloaded from <http://www.familysearch.org>

An abbreviation table for Meyers Orts can be found at <http://wiki.familysearch.org/> in the German section under the heading of Gazetteers and then the abbreviation table. It is always helpful to have a German-English dictionary close by. My preference is for an older version of the dictionary that might contain antiquated words helpful to period research.

WHAT IS FOUND IN EACH VILLAGE LISTING IN THE MEYERS ORTS?

Place names are listed alphabetically and are arranged in three volumes. The first volume contains A through K; the second volume contains L through Z; and the third volume contains the additions and corrections in a supplement.

Each entry contains information about the village beginning with the name and the settlement type. Then, if available, the Government district, Population, Post Office, Closest Railroad, Courts, Churches, Schools, Institutes, Military, Financial, Business, Trades, Industries, Shipping, Local Government services, and any Dependent Places.

I have found countless German ancestors for my husband and other patrons at the Family History Centers where I have volunteered through the years. I have been on several genealogical research trips in Germany. I do not speak or write German. I do have a fairly decent handle on the language contained in the church records through diligence and practice.

Basically, all successful searches started with the entry in the Meyers Orts. While reading the various blogs online, there was a quote by Jim Rohn that particularly fit German genealogical research. It was: "Don't wish it was easier, wish you were better. Don't wish for less problems, wish for more skills. Don't wish for less challenges, wish for more wisdom."¹

(Endnotes)

¹ Jim Rhon biography, http://www.jimrohn.com/index.php?main_page=page&id=1177, accessed 2 April 2, 2011.

Anne Leptich, Accredited Genealogist, Past-Chair of ICAPGen, accredited in Midwestern States, Past Director and Board Member of FGS, Past officer of the GFO.

The Rewards of German Research

Tom O'Brien

Researching your German ancestors can provide its share of challenges but the rewards of success are extremely satisfying. Consider the pleasure you shall receive as you contact a long forgotten cousin from the village where your ancestors lived. They may be living in the same village or in some cases the family home or farm where your ancestor lived. Should you have the opportunity to travel and meet them in person the thrill can be overwhelming. What a delight it is to actually be walking the same streets and worshipping in the same church where they worshipped. In the event that you are unable to travel, don't forget, your recently found cousins may like to travel and you could invite them to visit you here in the land where some of their ancestors came to live.

Through the power of the Internet you can view photographs of your ancestral village. Using Google "Images" you can often see photos or maps of the village. Imagine yourself sitting in your favorite easy chair while viewing photographs of the people, the church, city hall, a gasthof or other business in the village of your ancestors. To explore my suggestion, open Google in your browser. Click on "Images" near the top left, then enter the name of your ancestor's village and begin your journey to the village of your ancestor.

Frequently the village will have its own web site which you can view to learn what is going on in the area currently. Some offer tourism suggestions or other helpful information including the names of the current town council members. You may even find the surname of one of your cousins listed. To explore the village web site, use the Google web search box and type in the name of the village followed by (.de). You would use .de, because that is the country code designation for Germany (Deutschland). You can use the same approach for finding village websites in other countries. A complete Internet Country Codes Extension List can be found at:

http://www.exportbureau.com/country_codes_list.html

I'll use one of my ancestral villages as an example. When I type "Erlach.de" in the search box, I find the web site for the village of Erlach at <http://www.erlach.de/>. As I explore the home page I notice at the bottom of the left hand column, I can click on a British flag. This will show some of the pages in English.

Each village web site is unique in what it offers. In

the case of Erlach, you can discover the following: Its general geographic location, a brief history, the meaning of the name, the population at various times in history, that the first mention of Erlach was in 1250 a. d. You also learn that between 1840-1893, ninety-three of its inhabitants emigrated to America (several of them are related to me), and that today's population is 909 inhabitants. The population of Erlach in 1852 was 567 persons. If 93 left for America around that time, evidently about 474 remained in the village. For every person that came to America, five stayed in Erlach. Some of their descendents, **possibly my cousins**, may live there today. I suspect the same could be true in your village.

By downloading the Google toolbar to your computer you can often have web pages automatically translated from German to English. Should you prefer not to download the toolbar you can always copy and paste the text into Google Translate.

Are there ways that I can locate my German cousins?

By using the German telephone directory you may be able to determine the address and/or phone number for some of your cousins. I'll continue to use Erlach as my example but you will certainly want to use the village of your ancestors. It is helpful to have the postal code in order to search the German telephone directory. The postal code can usually be found somewhere on the town web site. In the case of Erlach it is 77871. This is also the postal code for four other nearby villages. Keep in mind that since the reunification of Germany in 1990, many villages have been combined to provide more efficient administration. What this means to you is that the village where your ancestors lived, may now and in the future be part of a neighboring town or village. This is similar to what has taken place over time in the Portland area with Linntown, East Portland and St. Johns being incorporated into Portland. Thus the postal code will be increasingly important in identifying the appropriate location.

When the original unification of Germany took place in 1871, a situation was created where a number of villages in the newly created Germany had the same or similar names. Likewise if you consider the town name of Springfield, there are thirty-six in the United States, five of which are located in Wisconsin.

The German telephone directory, Das Telefonbuch,

can be searched at:

<http://www1.dastelefonbuch.de/english.html?&cilist=&sp=0>

Enter the surname you are looking for and the appropriate postal code. My search result hits are:

HUND 3, KUPFERER 20, PFISTERER 12, SCHINDLER 41, SPINNER 21, & VOGT 9.

Once you have used the telephone directory to identify persons that you suspect may be related, you will want to contact them. Typically you would choose individuals with the surname(s) you are interested in and a given name that you know has been used in your own family. It is usually best to begin by sending a letter to them. The letter should contain a brief statement identifying yourself and indicating that your family member came from the village you have identified. Do not go into a lot of detail on the initial contact. Explain that you are interested in making contact with any family member in his/her location that may have an interest in the history of your mutual family. Ask the individual to share your letter with any such person. Explain that since German is not your native tongue you are using translation software to enable you to include a German version of your letter. End your letter by thanking them for their help.

Be sure to include your contact information - name, address, email address and telephone number.

After you have composed your letter in English using your favorite word processor you will of course want to translate it into German. When you are satisfied that your message is brief and can be easily understood, copy it and paste it into Google Translate using same to translate the message from English into German. Next copy and paste the German version below the English version on your word document. Print it out and take it to your local post office for mailing. Be sure to use Air Mail as ships are quite slow.

What if you do not know the name of the city, town or village where your ancestors lived?

FamilySearch.org offers us a series of "Research Courses". One in particular can be extremely helpful as you pursue your research for your German ancestors. Fred H. Held has developed a video presentation titled "*My Experiences In German Family Research*". You can find it at: https://familysearch.org/learn/researchcourses#germany_res

Fred Held is an accomplished researcher who for many years has offered helpful answers to members of the BADEN-WURTTENBERG Rootsweb List.

FamilySearch.org also offers several helpful publications for anyone doing German research.

- a. German Genealogical Word List
- b. Germany Research Outline
- c. Genealogical Handbook of German Research
- d. German Letter-Writing Guide

I would suggest that you download these publications to your computer or print out hard copies as it is unclear if they will be available once the transition to the new FamilySearch site has been completed.

They are currently available at: http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp?Page=../research/Titleg/Titleg.asp&ActiveTab=Title

Other Research Articles related to specific areas in Germany are also available at the above location.

These include:

Baden
Bayern
Braunschweig
Hessen
Lippe
Mecklenburg
Oldenburg
Sachsen
Thüringen
Württemberg

Preußen, Germany

Brandenburg, Preußen, Germany
Hannover, Preußen, Germany
Hessen-Nassau, Preußen, Germany
Hohenzollern, Preußen, Germany
Ostpreußen, Preußen, Germany
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Another great resource at FamilySearch.org is the new FamilySearch Wiki. You can find the resources for Germany at:

<https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Germany>

Scroll down to view the topics and their links on the left hand side of the page.

Enjoy the rewards of finding your German cousins as you learn more about your ancestors.

Useful Links For German Research

Tom O'Brien

Basic Research Outline for German Genealogy - <http://www.germanroots.com/outline.html>
 FamilySearch.org German Research Tools - <http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/rg/guide/Germany6.asp>
<https://wiki.fsbeta.familysearch.org/en/Germany>
 Archives in Germany - <http://home.bawue.de/~hanacek/info/earchive.htm> and <http://members.cox.net/hessen/archives.htm>
 Germany GenWeb Project - <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wggerman/>
 German Telephone Directory - <http://www2.dastelefonbuch.de/english.html>
 Cyndi's List Germany / Deutschland - <http://www.cyndislist.com/germany.htm>
 Jewish Gen ShtetlSeeker – Town Search - <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp>
 Surname Location in Germany - locations where your surname may have been most plentiful.
<http://www.meine-wurzeln.de/>
 German Empire 1871 - 1918 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Empire
 German Timeline - <http://www.californios.us/deutschland/timeline/>
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 German GenWeb - <http://www.worldgenweb.org/~ceneurogenweb/>
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<http://www.viamichelin.com/>
 Historic maps from the University of Texas at Austin
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/history_europe.html
 A series of maps showing areas that are part of current day Germany as they appeared in 1789.
<http://www.hoeckmann.de/germany/index.htm>

History of the German American Society of Portland

Mark Wiltgen

German speaking immigrants have contributed greatly to the development of Oregon. Johann Jacob Astor sent expeditions by land and sea to establish the fur trading post of Astoria. It was soon given up to the British, but Astor's settlement being the first gave the United States a solid position in gaining the Oregon Country for America. In the 1840's Germans began to arrive, slowly at first, then in greater numbers on the Oregon Trail. In the 1850's Germans began establishing businesses in Portland. Men such as Frank Dekum, Frederick Bickel, Aaron Meier, Sigmund Frank, Henry Saxer and Henry Weinhard.

The Portland Turn Verein was organized on November 7, 1858. It was a German gymnastic and social organization based on democratic principles. Many of these were established throughout the United States. By the beginning of the 1870's, the Germans were well established, including having their own newspaper.

A few prominent German citizens gathered in February of 1871, to organize a benevolent society called the Allgemeinen Deutschen Unterstützungs Gesellschaft, or General German Aid Society. At the founding on the 7th of that month were members F.X. Auer, Charles A. Burkhardt, Frank Dekum, H.W. Dilg, F. Eberhardt, Henry Everding, G.B. Heny, Georg Herrall, A.F. Hoffmann, L. Keuhn, C.A. Landenberger, Fr. Menge, C.H. Meussdorfer, J.S. Riete, Henry Saxer, Charles Schumacher, Dr. Schwab, Adam Ständer, O. Treuer, Henry Weinhard, Carl Wiegand, and Hy. Wilmer.

The German Swiss, Henry Saxer, who in 1857 established Portland's first brewery, was named its first President. The original mission was to aid German immigrants in financial need, help them find employment, organize a school for German children and to build a hospital.

The dream of building a hospital was never realized. On February 23, 1911, the German Aid Society restated its Articles of Incorporation to include the building and operation of an Old Peoples Home for Germans in Portland. On June 6, 1911, Louise Weinhard, six years the widow of Henry Weinhard, donated a twenty acre tract on Division Street near 82nd avenue for the home. On August 6, 1911, with two thousand people present, the cornerstone of the Altenheim, or Old Peoples Home, was laid and on May 19, 1912, the finished Altenheim was dedicated.

From its beginning, the German Aid Society operated as a business enterprise all the way through World War

II. After the war, it began to take on a larger cultural role due to the fact that the Portland Sozialer Turn Verein had sold its hall in 1946. In 1960 the Portland Sozialer Turn Verein merged with the German Aid Society.

German social activities took place in the Society's German House, built in 1926, on SW 11th Ave. In the late sixties the society expanded the Haus in downtown Portland for the German community.

The General German Aid Society restated its Articles of Incorporation on March 22, 1995, and changed its name to the **German American Society**, better reflecting its mission to the German American community.

In February 2003, due to outside circumstances, the German American Society discontinued its retirement home operations at the Altenheim. The Society then moved its social and cultural activities there.

Under a possible threat of eminent domain, the German American Society negotiated a friendly sale of its New German House on Division St. to Portland Community College.

Today the German American Society continues its cultural mission. It presents annual college scholarships to high school and entry-level college students who study German. It continues to operate its Saturday morning German Language School, which was started in 1964. It also holds events relating to German and German American issues such as the German reunification anniversary celebration in October of 2005, and the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in November of 2009.

Unfortunately, regarding genealogy, the Society only has names of its past members and those of other early German associations.

Mark Wiltgen, the Society's Historian and Archivist, began creating the Society Archive almost twenty years ago. Other long time members and outside individuals have contributed to the collection. Mr. Wiltgen has also served five years as President and many years on its Board of Directors. Information provided for this article is from his personal knowledge. For further information contact him at his website: markwilt@att.net.

The German American Society of Portland is located at 7901 SE Division Street. Their website is <http://www.germanamerican.org>. The building has been sold to Portland Community College. As of May 31, 2011 their business office will be at their old German House at 714 SW 11th Ave in Portland.

The Moehnke Family Moves to the New World

Mildred Griffith Wallace and Mariam Bluhm Martinsen

Gottfried and Anna Dorothea (Malnososki or Mollofskie) Moehnke came to the Sullivan area of Grey County, Ontario, Canada, with their family to find a better life in April 1858. Family records list several towns where they lived in Freidrichstein, Prussia, now in Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship (Province), Poland. They are all within a short distance of each other and east of Hamburg. They sailed from Hamburg and the passenger record includes the following people: Gottfried age 46, Dorothea, wife, age 45, Carl (Charles) age 17, Michael age 14, Justine age 12, Gottfried age 9, Christine age 7, Frederick age 5, Florentine age 2, and Christian 4 months. The place of origin is

Friedrichstein Prussia, and his occupation is Landmann (probably farmer).¹ The baptismal record of Justine, created at her baptism on June 3, 1872 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor Zu Brank, while they were living in Sullivan, also confirms this information.²

This was the time in history when all the able bodied men were being inducted in the Prussian army to fight the many wars of the aristocrats. Just ten years earlier there had been a revolution in Germany and many reforms had been promised to the people, but never came to pass, so the Prussian people and many other Germans left for America, the land of promise.

They settled in Guelph, Wellington County, and later moved to Owen Sound, where they engaged in farming. It's my belief that Charles Moehnke, a brother of Gottfried, and his family also came with them, as they are buried in Ten O'Clock Church graveyard in Clackamas County, Oregon, where Gottfried is buried.

According to the 1861 census of Canada, they lived

in Guelph, Wellington County and the family included Gottfried and Anna Mink, both born in about 1812, Charles, Michael, Justine, Gottfried, Christena, Fred, Flora and Christian. They were all born in Prussia and practiced the Lutheran religion, as did many others in this community. The men worked as laborers. This accounts

for all of the children except for Caroline who died in Germany and Louise who was married April 19, 1858 to Michael Schwertz. The next household, is Fred and Justine Mink with a baby Charles, relationship to them is unknown.³ Michael and Louise Schurtz (Schwartz) are also in Guelph, with children: Albert, Louise, Fritz and Charles.⁴

By the 1871 census of Canada the family was living in Sullivan, Grey

County and those listed are Gottfried, Dorothe (Anna), Frederick, Florentiene and Christian. Here Gottfried is a farmer. Charles and Justina Moehnke are listed with children: Charles, Mary, Gusta, Elizabeth, Frederick, and Christian.⁵

They moved to the United States in 1877, just three years after Grandma Marie Moehnke Heft, granddaughter of Gottfried and Anna, was born. Gottfried settled ten miles east of Oregon City, where he bought one hundred acres of land in the woods, which he improved and where he died. His third son Frederick inherited this property.

Gottfried was born May 26, 1812 and died December 14, 1889 at age 77. Anna Dorothea was born December 20, 1812 and died September 25, 1890. Gottfried and Anna Dorothea Moehnke were married on April 19, 1836 in Germany. Aunt Flora Fisher (sister-in-law to Grandpa John Heft by his half brother Alfred Fisher) remembered Dorothea bringing lumps of brown sugar wrapped in a hanky for her grand children.



The Gottfried Moehnke House, Beavercreek, Oregon

There were ten children in the family of Gottfried and Anna Dorothea Moehnke who were all born in Germany.

Karolina Moehnke, born August 29, 1834, died as a young child in Germany.

Louise Moehnke, born May 14, 1836 and died March 27, 1928 in Portland, married Michael Schwertz on April 19, 1858. Michael was born October 1832. They had eleven children: Louise, Albert, Fritz, Charles, Flora, Augustina Grossmueller, Mary Schwichienberg, Michael William, John, Christian, and David.

Charles (Carl or Karl) Moehnke, born March 31, 1840 and died January 1, 1922 in Portland. He married Justina Hettman after they both immigrated to Canada. She was born about September 1843 and died December 31, 1921 after caring for him through an extended illness. They had ten children: Louisa LaDeau, John Alfred, Albertine, Mary Gustina France (Graham), Flora M. Dickey, Charles F. W., William and August C. B. Charles operated the first Beavercreek Post Office and Store. He served as Clackamas County Commissioner from 1888-1892 and was elected Justice of the Peace at Beavercreek 1886. He was one of the first exponents of permanent roads, which met with considerable opposition. In order to demonstrate his theory, he built what is believed to be one of the first experimental roads in the west. On a stretch a mile long from Mountain View to the crossing of the Highland road, he constructed a pavement by laying large rocks and filling in with screening gravel. The road is still in use forty years later.⁶

Michael Moehnke, born October 3, 1842 and died June 1926, married Caroline Fisher on October 14, 1868 in Preston, Waterloo, Ontario. Their marriage record lists Marienwerder, Prussia as their place of birth.⁷ They had nine children: Flora Frazier, Augusta Jones, Marie Meyers, William Michael, John Gottfried, Christian, David F., Otto E., and Bertha Hibbs. Caroline born November 14, 1846 and she died January 2, 1888. He married Katherine McKennett in 1894. Michael died June 2, 1926, and Katherine died July 23, 1935.

Justine Moehnke born September 19, 1844 in Klein Tromnan, Tochlars Westprussia, Prussia, Germany and died July 27, 1875 in Owen Sound. She married Fred Heft, as his second wife, on November 20, 1862 in Owen Sound. He was born in 1837 in Prussia, Germany, and he died in Grey County, Canada in August 18, 1869.⁸ They had six children: Mary, John, Fred, and Lenna. Her second husband was Karl Fisher. They had Alfred Fisher who married Aunt Flora Bluhm.

Gottfried Moehnke, born June 20, 1847 and died March 11, 1928. He married Mary Zetas, born February

21, 1846 and died December 31, 1930. They had ten children: Albert, Lizzie Bluhm, Robert, John G., Carl (Charles) August, Fred W. (married to Tina Moehnke, Grandma Heft's sister, who died shortly after marriage), Flora Benson, Lena Priester, Rosa Douglas, and Aguste Reigler (May).

Christena Moehnke, born November 6, 1849 and died February 1, 1927. She married Fredrick (Fritz) Bluhm, born January 19, 1849 and died April 9, 1910. They had nine children: Flora Fisher (married to Grandpa Heft's half brother Alfred), August, John, Christ G. aka Chris (married to Grandma Heft's sister Minnie), William F., Arthur G., Cathleen, Elsie, and Della Fisher. Her second husband was Fred Bingham.

Frederick Moehnke, aka "Fritz", born March 2, 1852 and died July 22, 1926.⁶ He married Caroline Slomske, born September 17, 1845 and died December 26, 1907. They had ten children: Marie Heft, Amelia Shockley, Herman, John D., Minnie Bluhm, Louise (Lizzie) Kloebe (Koellermeir), Henry, Vina Staben (Koellermeir), Tina Moehnke, and Eva Grover. Fritz's second wife was Hulda Meibs (nee Fuerstenanau), born August 30, 1872 and died April 11, 1956.⁹ They married on 11 November 1906. They had three children: Ervin F., Gerhart J., and Walter R.

Flora Moehnke, born December 24, 1854 and died July 2, 1935.¹⁰ She married Christian Fisher born December 1851 and died in 1914. They had six sons: John of La Grande, Joseph of Wallowa, Ben of Brownsville, Otto of Redland, Chris of Beavercreek and Arnold of Oakland.

Christian Moehnke, born December 24, 1857 and died July 28, 1933. He married Mary Heft (grandpa John Heft's sister), born January 1, 1864 and died 14 May 1894. She left three children which Aunt Lena Heft, her sister, helped to raise. The children were Nora Klinger, Irene Rauch, and Edna Moehnke who was crippled and died at age fifteen.

The above family history contains information gathered over many years by various family members, unless otherwise noted, some of which is undocumented. By 1880, five of their children lived in Oregon, and by 1900 all eight living children were here. Gottfried and Anna Dorothea had seventy-four known grandchildren.

The 1880 US Census shows the Moehnke family members living in Beaver Creek, Clackamas County, Oregon. The parents and families of six of their children listed are:

Michael, a farmer, and his wife Caroline, with children Flora, Augustina, Mary, William, John, Christian, and David.

Gottfried and his wife Anna. (the parents), he is listed as “does chores on farm.”

Fred (indexed Mochnke), a farmer, and his wife Caroline, with children Fredric, Maria, Amelia, Harmon, John, and Minna.

Charles, a farmer, and his wife Gustina, with children Louisa, John Alfred, Albertine, Mary Gustina, Flora M., Charles F. W., and August C. B.

Michael Schwertz, a farmer, and his wife **Louisa**, with children Augusta, Mary L. M., and Frederick G.

Christian Fisher, a farmer, and his wife **Flora**, with children John and William.¹¹

C (Christian) Moehnk, a farm laborer, is single.¹²

By the 1900 census the parents had passed away, but some of their children continued to farm the land they had settled in Beaver Creek, Oregon. Their families are listed below:

Michael, a farmer, and his wife Catherine, with children Christian C., Otto E., Bertha, Ada C., Eva M., and Ellen C. His wife had ten children and seven were living. He came to the US in 1878, yet his son is listed as born in Oregon in September 1877. She came in 1887 and they have been married five years. Ada, Eva and Ellen are listed as step daughters.

Frederick, a farmer, and his wife Caroline, with children Herman, John D., Minnie D., Henry W., Vina C., and Tena H. His wife had ten children and nine were living. He came to the US in 1878.

Gottfried, farmer, and his wife Mary, with children Charles A., Frederick, Flora, and Rosa. His wife had ten children and ten were living. He came to the US in 1881.

Frederick, a farmer, and **Christena** Bluhm. She had nine children and they were all living. Their children living with them are Christian, William, Arthur, Adalia D., Elsie and Adiline.

Christian Fisher (indexed Tischer), a farmer, and his wife **Floratene**, with children Joseph F., Benjamin, Otto W. and Christian E. She had ten children and five were living. They came to the US in 1877.¹³

Living in West Oregon City, **Chas** (Charles), is a Saw Mill man, with his wife Christina (Gustina) and his brother (listed as his father) Fred, who is listed as divorced, is also a Saw Mill man. They had been married thirty-eight years and she had nine children and seven were living. Chas came to the US in 1858, Christina in 1875 and Fred in 1875.¹⁴

John Heft, a farmer (the son of Fred Heft and **Justine Moehnke**), was living in Highland, with his wife Mary L. (Moehnke), and their daughters Edith C. and Edna L. She had two children. He came to the US in

1885 and she came in 1877. This census record notes that his parents were born in Canada, but they actually were both born in Germany. It notes that both of her parents were born in Germany.¹⁵ This couple is the grandparents of Mildred Wallace. Their marriage, March 1, 1893, was between cousins, children of Justine Moehnke Heft and Frederick Moehnke, sister and brother. Their children born after this census were: Alfred, Carl, Walter and Emerald, Mildred's mother.¹⁶

Living in Portland, Michael Schwertz, a druggist, and his wife **Louisa**, with no children living with them. She had eleven children and two were living. They are listed as coming to the US in 1855, but probably came after 1861, as the Canadian census that year notes that all of their children were born in Prussia.¹⁷

In the 1910 census **Chris**, a farmer, is living in Highland. He is a widower, with his daughters Nora and Irene, who both were born in Washington. He came to the US in 1875.¹⁸

The last name Moehnke, spelled in several variations, continues to be found throughout Clackamas County. The influence of this family greatly impacted the community of Beaver Creek. In an article found in the Enterprise, in a column named the Mink Mutterings, on January 9, 1891 there is mention of the make up of the town at that time.

Mink is about eight miles from Oregon City on the head of Beaver Creek. It consists of post office, store, blacksmith shop, chopper, two sawmills and four churches, the last which ought to prove that the people of Mink are a peace loving people. We are also blessed with a brass band which consists of ten pieces, with John Moehnke leader.¹⁹

The Moehnke family contributed to the establishment of the Ten O'Clock church and participated in the building of that church. It was known as St. Peter's Church and also listed as a congregational church. This was the same name as the Lutheran church they attended in Canada. Later the family decided to build their own church on property owned by Michael Moehnke. This church was known as St. Peter's Lutheran Church or the Moehnke Church, and is no longer there. It was adjacent to the Moehnke Cemetery, located at North of S. Lower Highland Rd. on S. Carus Rd. Many of the family members are buried there or in St. Peter's Cemetery. For burial information check out findagrave.com and interment.net. A good resource for early records is the Clackamas County Historical Society located in Oregon City. The Family History Society features a Research Library in the Museum of the Oregon Territory.²⁰ Additional family information can be found on ancestry.com, rootsweb.

com and familysearch.org.

Mildred and Mariam are second cousins, great granddaughters of Frederick Moehnke, who found each other later in life and have become good friends. They share a passion for family history and an urgent need to uncover their common roots.



The Moehnke Church, which no longer exists.

(Endnotes)

- 1 Hamburg Passenger List, Direct Index, Band 2, 28 February 1857-30 November 1858, pg. 51, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011. The original from microfilm
- 2 Baptismal record of Justine Moehnke in possession of Mildred Wallace. A Family Register in possession of Mildred, possibly from a family Bible, lists the parents and all ten children, with birth and marriage information. It is hand written in one script and is difficult to read.
- 3 1861 Canada Census, Guelph, Wellington, Canada West, pgs. 10-11, image 457-458, ancestry.com, accessed 8 February 2011.
- 4 1861 Canada Census, Guelph, Wellington, Canada West, pg. 15, image 462, ancestry.com, accessed 8 February 2011.
- 5 1871 Canada Census, Sullivan, North Grey County, Ontario, pgs. 17 and 20, ancestry.com, accessed 8 February 2011.

6 Portrait and Biographical Record, pg. 485, actual reference unknown (likely a County History circa 1800, received by Mildred at the Oregon Historical Society).

7 Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1857-1926, Family History microfilm 1030067, ancestry.com, accessed 4 March 2010. Newspaper articles about Michael Moehnke's death, Oregon City Enterprise, Reel 17, 4 June 1926, pg. 1.

8 Copy of Newspaper article in possession of Mildred Wallace. No identification of publication provided.

Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1857-1926, Family History microfilm 1030066, ancestry.com, accessed 4 March 2010. Baptismal record of Justine Moehnke in possession of Mildred Wallace.

9 Oregon Death Index, Clackamas County, Certificate 4635, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011

10 Oregon Death Index, Clackamas County, Certificate 265, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011.

11 1880 US Census, Beaver Creek, Clackamas, Oregon, pgs. 10-11, images 3-4, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011.

12 1880 US Census, Clackamas, Oregon, pg. 22, image 21, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011

13 1900 US Census, Beaver Creek, Clackamas, Oregon, images 7 and 8, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011.

14 1900 US Census, West Oregon City, District 89, Clackamas, Oregon, pg. 13, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011. This census record is very confusing and not indexed properly. Fred would seem to be Charles brother, and Fred also showed up in the census for Beaver Creek, still married.

15 1900 US Census, Highland, District 33, Clackamas, Oregon, pg. 6, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011.

16 Family information provided by Mildred Wallace. Clackamas Legacy, Vol. 11, No. 1, The Enterprise, 17 March 1893, the Mink Mutterings, Clackamas County Historical Society.

17 1900 US Census, Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, image 40, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011.

18 1910 US Census, Highland, District 33, Clackamas, Oregon, pg. 6, ancestry.com, accessed 14 April 2011.

19 Clackamas Legacy, Vol. 11, No. 1, The Enterprise, 9 January 1891, the Mink Mutterings, Clackamas County Historical Society.

20 Clackamas County Historical Society, <http://clackamascountyhistoricalsociety.art.officelive.com/default.aspx>, accessed 14 April 2011.



The Beavercreek Band
Grandpa John Uncle Al
In front of trombone players.

Winner of the 2011 GFO Writing Contest

The Wife of Old Phil Upton

Bonnie LaDoe

At the Upton home on Christmas morning, 1842 in Shelby County, Missouri, Mary "Polly" Upton was undoubtedly thinking about the Christmas dinner she would prepare later that day. Mary would have plenty of help as all seven of the Upton daughters were still living at home.¹

Cynthia, 19, Nancy, 17 and Alzina, 13 could not only help with the dinner preparation, they could also assist with the four younger daughters, Julia 9, Martha 7, Louisa 5 and little 3 year old Margaret. Her husband, Philip, considered an "old man, at least 55" and known by some as "Old Phil"²; left about 9 a.m. for the cornfield, but would be returning shortly. Perhaps Mary's only son, John, now 25 and his wife Sarepta,³ would be able to join them.

Sometime after Philip left, Alzina and one of her younger sisters decided to ride up to where their father was working. The family dog tagged along. There was snow on the ground and it must have been a peaceful scene as the girls rode along.

Perhaps also on this quiet morning, Mary could reflect back on how she had come to this place in her life. She was just over 40 years old and had endured much in those years. She was born in Overton County, Tennessee about 1800 to father John Dale and mother Nancy Paris.⁴ Before 1817⁵, she was married to Philip Upton, and before they left Tennessee, her only son, John was born in 1817.⁶ A move to Ralls County, Missouri in the early 1820's, which had only been inhabited by French trappers and Native Americans a few years before, made them among the earliest settlers.⁷ The new two-story, log courthouse built in 18228 must have been reassuring to Mary that civilization was there to stay. While in Ralls County, Mary bore four daughters.

By 1835, they were living in Monroe County⁹ where two more daughters were born. And now, since 1838, Mary and Philip had settled on land in Taylor Township, about five miles from Hagar's grove in Shelby County.¹⁰ It was here that two more daughters were born and son John had married Sarepta Michael on June 25, 1840.

.A knock on the door that Christmas morning would have interrupted Mary's thoughts and when she opened it, she found two young men, Daniel Thomas and Jeffery Shelton standing there. Jeffery stated he wanted to speak

with Philip, and Mary directed them to the cornfield. Perhaps if she had known the threats and accusations that Daniel Thomas made toward her husband, she would not have disclosed his whereabouts.

Unbeknownst to Mary, at the same time Philip left for the cornfield, Daniel Thomas was celebrating Christmas day with a half-pint of whiskey and a pistol loaded with paper wads, which he fired at times to celebrate the day. Apparently bored with that activity, Daniel went to the home of Jonathan Michael and met up with another young man, Jeffrey Shelton, an employee of Jonathan's. Jonathan asked Jeffrey to go to the Upton residence to obtain a gun he had left for repair, and Jeffrey invited Daniel Thomas to go with him.

Earlier, Daniel had been very vocal about how one of the Upton daughters had disclosed to him that she was "unchaste and had at least three paramours". When this got back to Phillip, he and Daniel had a "bitter quarrel" and Daniel evidently threatened to "mash his d___ old head" and to "beat him half to death". And Daniel had also bragged that he had a pistol.¹²

As Daniel and Jeffrey were riding toward the field to find Philip, they met the two Upton girls. The girls' dog must have sensed trouble as it began barking incessantly, so Jeffrey took Daniel's pistol, which was loaded with paper wads, and shot at the dog to scare him. Then, according to Jeffrey, they proceeded toward the field where Philip was working.

They weren't very far when Philip Upton appeared with his rifle, as he must have heard the gun shot. He said to Daniel, "Now, damn you, where's your pistol" and fired.¹³ Shot through the body, Daniel Thomas fell to the ground and died in "less than two hours, where he had fallen, half covered with snow".

The next knock on the door of the Upton home would be for the arrest of Philip. Fortunately, when Philip and his daughters were examined before a magistrate, Philip was released when his daughters swore that Daniel Thomas was drawing his pistol when their father shot him.¹⁴

No doubt in an effort to put the incident behind them, the family moved to Adair County in early 1843.¹⁵ On Aug. 10, 1843, daughter Nancy, now 18, married Josiah Cain.¹⁶ And on December 15, 1843, eldest daughter, Cynthia, married Thomas Payton Haynes¹⁷ and moved to

Sullivan County. Also, Mary's first grandchild, Mary M. was born to John and Sarepta. I'm sure Mary was now breathing a sigh of relief, but unfortunately, their troubles were far from over.

The Uptons soon learned that when the Shelby county circuit court met in September 1843, they had indicted Philip for the murder of Daniel Thomas.¹⁸ And on February 13, 1844, the sheriff of Adair County came to the Upton home to arrest Philip.¹⁹ He went without resistance.

Philip's trial was not until July 12, 1844 when Judge McBride held a special term in Shelbyville. The defense subpoenaed both Alzina and Nancy on July 1st and their brother John read them the subpoena.²⁰ It is not known how many family members attended the trial, but only Alzina, now 14, gave testimony.²¹ Why the older sister Nancy was subpoenaed is unclear, as it was a younger sister who witnessed the shooting with Alzina.

The trial lasted two days and the jury returned a verdict of "guilty of manslaughter in the second degree".²² Thus Philip Upton became the first convicted murderer in Shelby County, Missouri. Since the jury could not agree on a punishment, the judge sentenced Philip to three years in the penitentiary. He served two years as his attorneys worked on an appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court. And then, thankfully, Gov. Edwards pardoned him.

During Philip's incarceration, the family moved to Putnam County.²³ Apparently son John, his wife Sarepta, and all the Upton girls, except Cynthia, went with Mary. And Philip joined them when he was released sometime in 1846. With four more grandchildren joining the family during Philip's absence, Mary must have thought they could finally settle into a normal family life, but again she was wrong.

Eighteen forty-seven brought joy to the Upton household with the birth of a grandson born to son John and Sarepta and named after his grandfather, Philip,²⁴ but that event was overshadowed by the sorrow that followed.

One day as "old Phil" was at work in the woods digging a trough out of a log, Mary and one of the girls, possibly Nancy, were washing clothes nearby on the banks of the Chariton River. At the same time, Josiah Cain, Nancy's husband, with his rifle ready, was secretly following Philip through the woods. Josiah then "bushwhacked" Philip shooting and fatally wounding him. What quarrel Josiah had with Philip is unknown, but after the incident, Josiah fled for California, only making it to St. Joseph, Missouri where a "desperado quarreled with him and killed him. Then a mob rose and killed the

desperado."²⁵

The plight of the family from this point dims for a while. However, it is known that by 1850, Nancy, now 25, has taken back her maiden name of Upton and Mary is a widow living with her unmarried daughters and still in Putnam County. Living next door is son John and Sarepta and next to them daughter Alzina, who married Stephen Wilcher March 12, 1846.²⁶

On April 26, 1849, John and Sarepta have twin boys, David and George. David is destined to become my great-grandfather, however, George will add yet another murder to the Upton story.

On June 21, 1851, daughter Julia Ann marries Henry Coplen²⁷ and eventually moves to Iowa in about 1856.

Also about 1850, word reaches Mary that her eldest daughter Cynthia Haynes has died. To add to her grief, daughter Nancy is declared "insain" on February 16, 1852 and her brother John is appointed as her guardian.²⁸ One can only wonder if the trauma of her father's death at the hands of her husband and his subsequent murder is the contributing reason for her diagnosis.

Even in the face of these tragic events the family, this time, they did not move away. Mary purchased 200 acres of land in Putnam County on September 1, 1854 for \$250²⁹, which seemed to indicate a desire to continue living in Missouri. Youngest daughter Margaret marries John Price on April 24, 1856, and in 1858, John and Sarepta have their last child, Sarah.

But the call of the Oregon Trail must have been strong, as about 1860, many of the Upton clan headed together for Oregon. How long it took them to make the journey is not recorded, but most likely they would have been on the trail from about May until at least September. With the trip time reduced by about 40 days since 1859 and ferries to take them across the most treacherous rivers, it was a little safer than in earlier years.³⁰ But the trip was still a grueling 2000 miles, and with wagons loaded to capacity with needed supplies, people were forced walk most those miles.³¹ And by now, Mary was at least 60 years old. In order to endure this trek, Mary must have felt very strongly that a new start in a far away place would finally bring her family peace of mind. Unfortunately, that hope was soon crushed.

With Mary on the trail was youngest daughter Margaret and her husband John Price along with their three small children; Mary born 1857, William, born 1858 and Samuel, born 1860. Also with them are John and Sarepta, with twins David and George born 1849,

and Sarah born 1858. Possibly missing from the party are the two eldest children of John and Sarepta. The last trace of them is in the 1850 Missouri census where Mary M. is seven and Philip is three. If they made the trek, they may have died either along the trail or soon after arriving in Oregon.

Family lore also relates another family tragedy along the trail. The family story says the group made it to Fort Hall, Idaho where Mary's son, John, went out to hunt for meat. While hunting, he was caught in a storm and although he made it back to the fort, he died a few days later. One can only speculate about what kind of storm would have taken his life. Most overland parties were at Fort Hall by late summer, so did the Upton party arrive at this site much later? Or was it a violent summer thunderstorm that took his life? Their journey was not documented, but the Oregon Trail journal of T. J. Stites reveals he saw the "grave of John L. Upton of Putnam Co. MO" near the Portneuf River in Idaho on August 6, 1862.³² (Fort Hall was at the mouth of the Portneuf). The loss of her only son must have been devastating to Mary, but at this point, she and the others had no choice but to continue moving on.

During most of the 1860's, the family is assumed to be in The Dalles area. Margaret and John Price have three more children born in Oregon before moving to Clarke County, Washington Territory in about 1867. By 1870, Mary is also living in Clarke County with the Price family, which by now includes their seven children.³³

Although Mary was my 3rd great grandmother, no stories or information about her was passed down to my line of Uptons. Perhaps Mary and Sarepta did not have a close relationship after John died.

Sarepta remarried an Edward Mahn in 1861³⁴, and divorced in 1869³⁵ while still in Wasco County. She and Edward lived at 15 Mile Creek (which later became Dufer) and her boys are among the first students at the Walker school there.³⁶

By 1870³⁷, Sarepta has taken back the name Upton and moved with her three children to Astoria, Oregon. To make that journey, they would have boarded the Oregon Steam Navigation Company railroad at The Dalles for the 14 mile trip around Celilo Falls³⁸ and then taken a steamship to Portland and another on to Astoria. Undoubtedly because of this move, her twins, David and George (now 21 years old) both married local girls from the Smalley family of Rocky Point, Washington, across the river from Astoria. David married Edna Smalley in 1873³⁹ and they raised their four children in the Deep River area of Wahkiakum County, Washington, but spent their later years in Hood River, Oregon. George's

wife, Mary Smalley, Edna's sister, died shortly after their marriage and he did not remarry.



Wedding photo, Edna Smalley and David Upton, May 8, 1873 Author's family photo

The last trace of Mary Upton's life is the 1871 Clarke County, Washington census⁴⁰ where she is living with daughter Margaret Price. Her death date is unknown, but she is not found in the 1880 census. Margaret, listed as a widow, had apparently moved to the Albina district of Portland by 1880⁴¹ along with four of her children. Many of Mary's other girls who did not come with her to the northwest later moved to Washington and Idaho.

Alzina and her husband, Stephen Wilcher, were still living in Missouri in August 1860,⁴² but by 1870, they are in Clark Territory, Washington⁴³ with sons John and James, and where Stephen died of "Cancer of Face" in April 1880.⁴⁴ Alzina is then found in the 1883 and 1887 Whitman County (Washington) census⁴⁵. By 1900, she is joined by her son James and three grandchildren (son John's children; John died in 1892) in Nelson, Ferry County, Washington.⁴⁶ By 1910, Alzina is back in Whitman County with her daughter-in-law, Nancy, John's widow.⁴⁷

On April 6, 1908, 78 year old Alzina filed an appeal with the Federal Government for Stephen's pension which was denied in 1893.⁴⁸ Stephen had been a private with the Illinois Volunteers in the Black Hawk Indian war in 1832, but records showed that actual service performed was less than the 30 days required to grant a pension. Because a plea showed that Stephen was actually paid for 36 days when including travel time from his home, and that "the claimant is virtually blind, absolutely destitute of money or property and that no

person is bound for her support”, a pension of \$8 a month was finally granted in May 1908.⁴⁹ Unfortunately, after her 15-year battle to receive the pension, Alzina died in 1910 and is buried beside her son John in Goldenrod Cemetery in Whitman County, Washington.⁵⁰

Mary’s daughter, Julia Ann, who married Henry Coplen in 1851 in Putnam Co. Missouri, is also found in Walla Walla and Whitman Counties, Washington from 1870⁵¹ to 1883⁵². By 1900,⁵³ she is in Kootenai County, ID where she died in 1917.

Maybe it is best that Mary Upton did not live to endure having another family member involved in a murder. Her grandson, twin George Upton, (son of John and Sarepta) was convicted in 1898 of murdering a man named William DeJournette in Columbia County, Oregon and was still in the Oregon State Penitentiary in 1900.⁵⁴

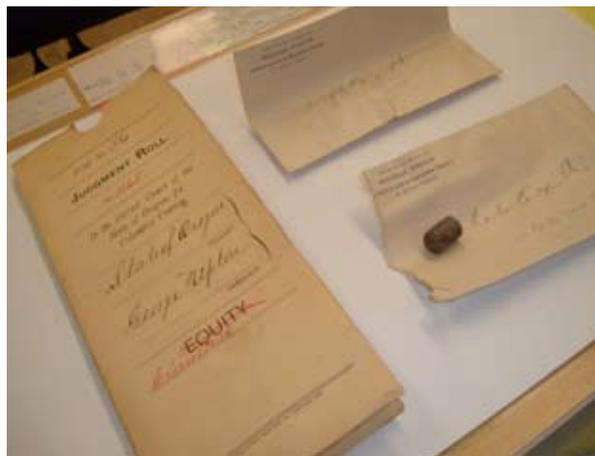
George, who was apparently in love with DeJournette’s wife, Annie, had come to the home of a William C. Statler on McGran’s landing on the Clatskanie about 6 p.m. on August 12, 1887 where the DeJournette’s were visiting. Statler (Annie’s ex-husband) and their daughter, Winnie, were also present⁵⁵

Revolver in hand, George demanded that Annie go with him. She refused. He then announced he was going to kill the entire household and then kill himself, and began shooting. Two shots hit DeJournette and he died almost instantly. William Statler was wounded, but Winnie escaped and ran for help. When George pointed the gun at Annie it failed to discharge, so he began beating her with it and kicking her. He then escaped in a small boat.⁵⁶ For eight years, he lived across the Columbia, (possibly near brother David), continued to work in the woods, and also went to California.

In August 1895, a trip to Wilson’s Saloon in Astoria ended George’s freedom. Astoria Police Chief Loughery spotted George in the saloon and since Loughery had at one time worked with George, he was sure he had the right person and arrested him.⁵⁷

George was taken to Portland and lodged in the Multnomah County Jail awaiting trial. In October 1895, they brought him to the St. Helens jail and he was arraigned in Judge McBride’s court and a trial date set. But on October 17th, George again slipped from the grasp of the law. While the deputy sheriff went to get supper for the two prisoners in his charge, George locked the other inmate in another cell, loosened two three-foot floorboards, and made his escape. He was last seen going north at a “very rapid pace”. As his brother David had been in town a day or two before, suspicion was high that George headed for the Washington side of the Columbia.⁵⁸

George was apprehended again in Portland in December 1897. Lodged in the Multnomah County jail, he finally went to trial in St. Helens in May 1898. The trial lasted four days and on May 10th, he was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to prison for “his natural life”.⁵⁹ On May 18th, he began serving his sentence in the Oregon State Penitentiary.



Evidence envelope and bullet, Columbia County Court House, St. Helens, OR, Author’s photo 24 June 2010



George Upton’s “mug shot” from Oregon State Penitentiary
Oregon Archives photo

Then on August 27, 1906, Governor Geo. E. Chamberlain granted him a full pardon. Interestingly, not only did the Governor exonerate George, but also “a large number of citizens of Columbia County” asked for his pardon and the sentencing judge, T. A. McBride, recommended it on the grounds that “the defendant was not guilty of a higher degree of homicide than manslaughter”.⁶⁰

During George’s incarceration, twin brother David

and his family moved from the Lower Columbia near Deep River, Washington to Hood River, Oregon. David must have sold the land he held in 1891⁶¹ and his youngest son, Elmer, recalled the family's move in a 1980 taped interview.⁶² One day, Elmer and his mother, Edna, had started a fire in the cook stove to warm their house in Deep River after being absent for two weeks while living at a logging camp. Then they left to pick blackberries. Suddenly, Edna looked back and realized that the house was on fire. They went back as fast as possible, but there was too much fire for them to extinguish, and the house burned to the ground.

Since the house was insured, David received a settlement of "a thousand dollars in twenty dollar gold pieces". But instead of rebuilding, they decided to move on, and with their treasure secure in a bag exclaiming "Ladd and Tilton Bank", they headed by boat to Portland and stayed overnight at the Esmond Hotel on Front St. David put the gold under his pillow for safekeeping, and the next morning, the family headed for the dock to catch the boat to Hood River. Apparently in their haste, the gold was left under the pillow in the hotel. Luckily, David remembered it before they embarked and they "hightailed" it back to the hotel arriving just as the maid was opening the door to their room. With the gold again safely in their possession, they continued on to Hood River where David and Edna were to spend the rest of their lives.

David and George appear to have been very close, as are most twins. For most of his life (with the exception of his incarceration), George is living with or near David. Even after almost a century, George's life continued to be the skeleton in the Upton closet. When 92 year old Elmer was asked in the 1980 interview about George's troubles, he would only say, "it was serious", and then indicated that he shouldn't be telling. Undoubtedly his father had told him never to talk about his Uncle George, and he never did.

How well the twins knew their grandmother, Mary, isn't known, but one can believe they inherited her tenacity.

In 1922, on their 73rd birthday, David and George decided to walk from Hood River to Canyon City, Oregon to attend the 60th anniversary celebration of the discovery of gold. They were said to be pioneers of Canyon City and struck out for the 213-mile walk each pushing a two-wheeled cart with their camping gear. "We had more enthusiasm than endurance" David is quoted as saying. They made it to The Dalles, but decided to turn back. At Rowena, David thought they should take the train back, but George did not. "George

and I argued the matter over considerably there, sitting by the roadside, but he declined to ride home. I left him sitting on a rock."⁶³



George (left) and David Upton on their 73rd birthday, 1922 Author's family photo

David and George are buried in the same grave in Idlewilde Cemetery in Hood River. Their gravestone shows David as the beloved father and George, the wayward twin, with his name in small print below David's.

Their grandmother, Mary, exemplified many of the women of her time who left their homes again and again to follow their men west and begin anew. She lost her husband, son, daughters and grandchildren, but left a legacy of strong will and determination that continues in her family today.



Idlewilde Cemetery, Hood River, Oregon
Photo from www.findagrave.com

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A Very Brief History of Southeast Portland's Ford Building

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In 1913 the Ford Motor Company introduced the modern mechanized assembly line into their manufacturing and assembly facilities, a revolution in industrial production. Soon afterward, the Dearborn, Michigan based company began developing a series of branch offices around the U. S. Four such plants were constructed on the west coast, including Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland. As a result of this expansion, the Ford Model T became the dominant automobile on the market; availability of the vehicles increased and the price decreased dramatically. Parts arrived via rail which Ford officials insisted be adjacent to their facilities. The parts could then be easily assembled, moving from one floor to the next, until reaching the top floor where they were varnished and readied for sale. When it first opened in February 1914, the Portland Ford Assembly plant was able to complete 10 cars per day.

Notable Portland architect Albert E. Doyle designed the building, which was constructed at a cost of more than \$200,000. Doyle incorporated reinforced concrete, a state of the art material in 1914, in his design. The building has tremendous structural strength, allowing for large multi-sash industrial windows that provide light and ventilation. Doyle used brick and terra cotta on the building's exterior, materials he frequently used throughout his career. The Multnomah County Library in downtown Portland, completed in 1913, provides another example of Doyle's use of these materials.

In the early 1930s, Ford shut down their Portland facility and the building sat unused until July 1936, when the car maker reopened for a short while. The company however, continued to scale back branch operations, shifting to more modern and centralized manufacturing facilities and in 1939, the Portland assembly plant was closed for good.

From 1941 until 1955 the building was used by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission as a warehouse. It was during this time that an addition to the building's south side was constructed. After the OLCC left, the



building was used by several companies until 1961, when the Metropolitan Printing Company operated the building for 15 years before selling it to Multnomah County in 1976. Multnomah County used the building for storage and other activities until 2003, when they sold the Ford Building to the current owners.

A note from the GFO President

Hurrah! The 10 year lease for our new location in the historic Ford Building was signed by myself on April 7, 2011 and witnessed by our Relocation Committee Chair--Don Holznagel, our facilities manager Jim Morrow, and our treasurer Jeanette Hopkins.

Much work has to be done getting the new GFO Headquarters and Library ready for our use. Mid July to Mid August is our estimated time of moving the library books, shelving and equipment. The Gideon building itself will be demolished in the fall if the new light rail line construction is on schedule. Our square footage of space is very similar to our present location on Gideon Street. There are three small lots for parking, as well as on-street parking. Some of the perks at the new location include a coffee shop with sandwiches, scones, and great coffee. Plus they do some catering. Artists rent a lot of the office space, and open studio tours are held at least three times a year.

Educate Yourself

The GFO Website: Really Useful Links

Larry Sullivan, webmaster

Did you find what you were looking for at gfo.org/search.htm? Do you want to know more? Do you want to research in other states? Go to gfo.org/links.htm as a starting point to find many more records. Most of these are links to FREE genealogical and historical resources on the Internet. These are excellent places for starting research in the United States, with lots of shortcuts for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Note that some links are marked with an orange bullet. These are sites that teach you HOW TO research your family. This web-page is divided into several sections. While the first section is dedicated to Oregon research, there are many more links to Oregon resources throughout the page.

In the Oregon section, my favorite is the “Search” link for Multnomah County Pioneer Cemeteries. If the last name is not too common, your search may result in finding family members buried in more than one cemetery. In most cases, clicking on a retrieved name will give you a burial date, cemetery, and exact gravesite. Also in this section you will find “Electronic Resources” for the Multnomah County Library. If you have a library card, you can access many resources from home, including America’s Obituaries, Heritage Quest, and the Oregonian. Other county libraries may have similar resources, which you can access with the appropriate library card. The Oregon Blue Book and the Oregon Historical Society both have historical and biographical resources that might be helpful.

The next section is “General Genealogy and Search Sites.” The first part is a table with links to resources in the first column. The next column describes each link, and the last three columns are shortcut links directly to resources for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. I have two favorites in this table. In the first row is “Death Indexes” by Joe Beine. He has at least one page for every state, and he lists many resources that are completely free.

In the third row titled “State Archives,” I often click on the link for Washington. Their digital archives are an incredible resource even for Oregon genealogy (do you have any idea how many Oregonians were married in Washington?). I researched a man who was born in 1886 in South Dakota, but he spent most of his adult life in Newport, Oregon. It appears that he avoided the census in 1910, 1920, and 1930. I have not found a draft registration card for him. The GFO has indexed most of the marriages during his marriageable years, yet he was not to be found. Out of frustration, I finally typed his name into the Washington Digital Archives. Three times, in 1912, 1936, and in 1944, he went to Clark County to get married. Of course, if you are researching Washington residents and you haven’t looked at the Digital Archives, then you are potentially missing a lot of records.

The next section has links to the LDS (Mormon) sites. Most important is the link to familysearch.org. This site

is an absolute must-see. You might even benefit if you type in names of people that you quit researching years ago. And keep coming back to the familysearch.org site. It gets hundreds of thousands of new records every month. Also in this section is a link to “Free Classes Online.” The LDS have posted well over one hundred videos on

various topics to help you in your research. If you are, or want to become, a professional genealogist, there are at least twenty-five more classes to aid in your success.

The “Military” section is next. There are almost too many good sites here to mention. There are lots of sites that index burials and lots of educational sites. For any war, it is always wise to check Joe Beine’s site for “Online Military Indexes & Records.” If you are looking for soldiers in the world wars, be sure to check American Battle Monuments Commission for burials overseas. Also check the Nationwide Veterans’ Gravesite Locator for

Find your family in our [genealogy indexes](#).

- Vital records
- Military records
- Land Records
- Yearbooks

Check our [library catalog](#)
and *really* [useful links!](#)

[Site map](#)



[Donations](#)

burials in the U.S. national cemeteries. Remember that it isn't just soldiers that are buried in national cemeteries. My grandfather who served during WW1, WW2, and Korea is buried in Lone Fir Cemetery in Portland. But because of his service, my grandmother is buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California and she can be found in the Nationwide Veterans' Gravesite Locator.

The next section is "Land Records." Most of the links are to background and educational sites. But notice the link to "Mapping a Donation Land Claim." This is a tutorial on using the Bureau of Land Management and Earthpoint.us sites to locate an Oregon Donation Land Claim (or homestead or land patent in many other states). The tutorial includes an example with step by step instructions and screen shots so that you can see the land in Google Earth and Google Maps.

In the next section titled "Maps, Gazetteers, etc.," I especially like the Newberry Atlas of Counties. This site allows you to enter a date and see the county boundaries in any state for that date. There are also textual chronologies and commentaries of the boundary change process. This will help you decide where to look for records. Note that records usually stay in the county courthouse where they originated, even if the specific locale for the record is now in another county split off

from a larger county. For instance, from December 1854 until September 1862, about two thirds of Oregon was Wasco County. The county did not shrink to its present size until 1908 when Hood River County was formed. Oregon didn't have its full complement of 36 counties until 1916 when Deschutes was founded. As recently as 1999, Coos County gained some land from Douglas County when a boundary was redefined to run along a range line. This is a great resource for the western states where large counties were frequently split up as the population increased.

The "Immigration" section provides links to Castle Garden, Ellis Island, and passenger lists. For even more links, check the two sites by Joe Beine. When you have found an immigrant, check the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to see how to obtain records.

I hope that this overview has helped you to find a good starting point for research. Maybe you will discover new web sites that will be useful in tracing your roots.

By the way, are you researching an individual who lived in Oregon? Have you checked our indexes at gfo.org/search.htm? There are almost 400,000 entries pointing to records documenting the lives and times of Oregonians. And that doesn't count over 150,000 Oregon marriages indexed on CDs, covering the years from 1925 to 1945.

FIRST FAMILIES OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

- Were your ancestors living in Multnomah County before the formation of the County on 22 December 1854?
- Did they arrive prior to the Transcontinental Railroad completion to Portland 11 September 1883?
- Did they come before the closing of the Lewis & Clark Exposition held in Portland 15 October 1905?

Each time period constitutes a level of settling in the area—Pioneer, Early Settler, and Lewis & Clark Expo.

Beautiful, frameable certificates will be issued, after the proofing process, for \$20 (Additional copies for \$15.) See the sample certificate when visiting the reading room. All verified material may be published in future issues of *The Bulletin*

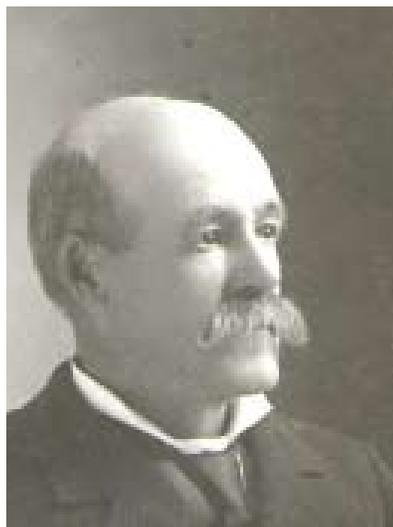
Download the First Families of Multnomah County application packet from our website at www.gfo.org. or pick up at the main desk in the GFO reading room.

Oregon Snapshots

Bishop Name

Synonymous with Pendleton Woolen Mills

Jayne T. Frink



This story must begin with Thomas Kay, who as was an important participant in the July 1863 opening of the second woolen mill in Oregon.

In 1875, Thomas Kay became superintendent of the last mill in Brownsville at a salary of \$1,500 a year. It was said to be “Tom Kay’s mill although he had only

a part interest in the operation. After dissolution of the Brownsville mill, Kay and his family would move to Salem where he established the Thomas Kay Woolen Mills.

And now for the rest of the story. Thomas Kay’s daughter, Fannie, married C. P. Bishop, and they were the parents of Clarence Morton, Royal “Roy”, and Robert Chauncey Bishop.

Scouring Mill Arrives in Pendleton

The late 19th century newspapers were promoting the importance of home industry and the use of local products. Scouring mills and woolen mills seemed to be adaptable to the Pendleton area.

In 1888, a German capitalist offered to erect a \$30,000 scouring mill, but the project never materialized.

In 1893, the Commercial Association invited Theron E. Fell, a former sheep rancher of Heppner, and E. Y. Judd of H. C. Judd and Root, wool buyers of Hartford, Connecticut to discuss plans for a scouring mill. On December 20, 1892, the Pendleton Wool Scouring and Packing Company was incorporated with R. Alexander, T. B. Wells and Theron E. Fell as incorporators. The Commercial Club and Umatilla County Wool Growers Association began a successful solicitation of stock subscriptions.

By February 1894, the foundation piers for the main

building were in place. The site was on a block extending from Emigrant Street to East Alta (now Dorian). When completed, the value of the property was estimated at \$15,000.

The Board of Directors consisted of E.J. Judd, E.D. Boyd, H. Shulthis, R. Alexander, T. E. Fell, C.S. Jackson, W.F. Matlock, W.D. Hansford, and T.B. Wells. Judd was elected president.

On May 9, 1894, the mill opened and a payroll of \$2,500 a month was created. The average daily wage was \$2.25. Boys used in the sorting room were paid 50 cents a day. Scouring capacity was 15,000 pounds on a daytime shift and a night shift would double that output. The warehouse capacity was 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 pounds of wool. Pendleton was established as an important primary wool market. Buyers from the flourishing Willamette Valley mills came regularly to Pendleton.

At this time about one-half of the sheep in Umatilla County were owned by 12 men, each with 5,000 head or better. Charles Cunningham reportedly owned 55,000 head.

The price of raw wool dropped from 14.5 cents to 9.5 cents per pound. Unsold wool was estimated at 9,000,000 pounds available. Buyers were in no hurry to purchase.

One of the largest suppliers of raw wool was the Baldwin Sheep and Land Company of Hay Creek, which announced in May 1901 it had stored 1,000,000 pounds of wool in the Shaniko, Oregon warehouse, and it would put the entire lot on the market in June. This may have been what caused wool prices to be quoted at 7 to 10.5 cents.

The scouring company came into criticism by the Oregon Fish Commission for allegedly polluting the Umatilla River with scouring mill waste. It was believed that a proposed fish hatchery on McKay Creek caused the criticism. It was eventually determined that the refuse was not harmful to the fish.

The scouring mill employees cherished a desire to form a football team, and their desires were met with enthusiasm by management. The team was formed and presented with green and orange striped sweaters and stockings.

The years continued with tonnage flowing into Pendleton in the usual amounts. Freight rates changed from \$1.30 to \$2 per hundredweight for grease wool and from \$1.50 to \$2.285 for scoured wool to Boston.

The mill continued for the next eight or nine years when it closed permanently.

Pendleton Woolen Mills Early History

The Pendleton Woolen Mills was the outgrowth of the defunct Pendleton Wool Scouring and Packing Company. Pendleton had all the necessary production factors to facilitate the operation of a woolen mill – scoured wool, pure water from the Umatilla River, and a force of men and boys who knew wool.

In 1895, T. G. Hailey proposed articles of incorporation for the Pendleton Woolen Mills with \$20,000 capital stock. Supplementary articles were filed March 28, 1898, increasing the capital stock to \$40,000.

C. S. Jackson, editor of the *East Oregonian*, vigorously urged community support of the promotion, but the campaign lagged. It was finally successfully closed October 17, 1895, when R. Albee bought the last shares.

The first stockholders meeting was held October 26, with E. Y. Judd elected president; E. D. Boyd, vice-president; and F. E. Judd, secretary/treasurer.

The mill was constructed on property adjoining the scouring mill on Emigrant and Alta Streets. Construction continued through the winter months, and by January 1896, the stone picker house was up, confirming the plant would be ready by spring.

The Pendleton Woolen Mills opened in 1896 and quickly gained a reputation for producing high-quality blankets that became standard on Pullman cars, in homes and even in packs of miners in the Klondike. The 1897



rush to the gold fields of the Klondike found the *East Oregonian* vowing to bring the latest news from the North, “regardless of the cost.” C. S. Jackson and E. Y. Judd agreed to finance John Lathrop on a trip to the Klondike with a full supply of Pendleton Woolen Mills blankets.

Just before Christmas, blankets and Indian robes, as well as washed and scoured wool, spindles and yarns were exhibited in the company’s showroom on Main Street.

Shortly after the beginning of 1897, Fred E. Judd, Theron E. Fell, and Charles (Sam) Jackson appeared on the streets of Pendleton wearing suits made from the first cloth manufactured in the Pendleton Mill. The gentlemen were so pleased with their \$20 suits that they proposed the organization of a “Home Industry Suit Club.” Although it seemed that the suiting material was of great interest, Fell wanted to center attention on blankets and Indian robes. Development of this market proceeded immediately.

Total Indian population of the United States at this time (1897-98) was estimated at 263,000, and the potential market extended from reservations in the Pacific Coast states as far east as Wisconsin. The company took special pains to weave the correct designs and colors that would represent the different tribes. A beautifully illustrated brochure was printed and mailed to Indian traders and other retailers. The company persisted in producing quality products bearing the Pendleton label. They also

marketed a lower-priced line called "Umatilla."

By 1903, three lines of shawls were being produced: heavy beaver, light plaids and a napless shawl in fancy Roman stripes. Automobile rugs, couch covers, steamer rugs and bathrobes were also being produced and advertised.

About this time it was learned a party of eastern bankers would be coming through Pendleton on the train and were eager to learn more about the west. The Pendleton Woolen Mills arranged a pile of 100 robes and blankets at the depot and before the train pulled out, the easterners had purchased almost the entire exhibit.

In March 1905, it was announced that rug weaving, which used a coarse grade of wool, would be added to their other lines. It appeared they were trying to forestall closing the mill because of the high price of the finer wools. The move did not prove to be effective and weavers, carders, spinners and finishers were discharged.

In 1905, legal troubles overtook the operation. H. C. Judd and J. Root, partners in H. C. Judd and Root, proceeded in bankruptcy against the woolen mill. A claim was filed for \$1,523.02 on account of a loan made by the creditors. September 30, 1905, a motion was filed by the petitioners' attorney J. H. Raley, and the final order to dismiss was signed. Baker-Boyer Bank of Walla Walla had also filed an attachment against the company. Despite the financial difficulties the mill continued to operate, but Pendleton was filled with rumors regarding the fate of the mill. There was talk that a Racine, Wisconsin company was negotiating to take over the mill, increase its capacity, and employ 200 people. Some heard that the mill would be moved to Gordon Falls. Neither of these projects materialized.

The Pendleton Commercial Club was more than aware of the importance of the woolen mill to the community and had J. P. Wilbur, the superintendent of the Union Woolen Mill Company, appraise the mill property. He estimated it would take more than \$10,000 to put the mill in good working condition: \$6,000 as value of the machinery, and \$4,000 to repair the roof and foundation. Anyone interested in leasing the mill should have \$25,000 working capital.

There appeared to be no buyers or leasers interested in the property.

New Owners Revive the Pendleton Woolen Mills

T. C. Taylor was one of the original incorporators of the first mill and had served in the Oregon Legislature with C. P. Bishop of Salem. Taylor was aware that Clarence and Roy, sons of C. P. and Fannie Kay Bishop, were graduates of the Philadelphia Textile School and had received early training from their grandfather, Thomas

Kay.

Taylor approached C. P. Bishop about opening the Pendleton Mill under the guidance of Roy and Clarence Bishop. After two months of negotiations, an agreement was reached. If the people of Pendleton would put up \$30,000 the Bishop family would put up a like amount and try to get the mill operation on a successful basis. February 16, 1909, the Pendleton Woolen Mills was incorporated under the ownership of the Bishop family. Clarence and Roy eagerly undertook the management of the new company.

A three-story concrete building was built at the corner of S.E. Court and 13th street. The brothers worked right along with the crew as the building was being constructed. They insisted that an extra strength cement mixture be used in construction and automatic fire extinguishers be installed. The building has aged admirably and is still in use today.

The Bishop Brothers worked long, hard hours and drew only enough money to take care of their living and business expenses. As trained manufacturers who had to have knowledge of the cost of labor and wool supplies, they knew that their woolen goods must be priced commensurate with the cost yet meet the special demands of the market. This was especially true of the Indian blankets, which were for the Indian trade.

Joe Roundsley, a Philadelphia Textile School graduate, was hired to create the designs for the Pendleton Indian blankets, and jacquard looms were installed. It was reported that Joe was difficult at times but his designs were pure art, conceived by living among the Indians.

Roy would take a line of Indian blankets to sell to traders on the Navajo, Hopi, and Zuni reservations. Clarence would take bed blankets and lounging robes to the Crescent in Spokane, Meier and Frank and other wholesale firms in Portland. Many Pendleton merchants carried their merchandise: Alexander's Department Store, Livingoods, Bond Brothers, Boston Store, Hamley-McFardridge, Powers Harness Company, Wessels, and Peoples' Warehouse. The Bishops decided that no one company would have exclusive distribution of the Pendleton line.

Volume in the first year was \$65,000, which was a break-even figure. This figure increased steadily in 1910-1911.

The Union Woolen Mills had moved its operation to Washougal, Washington, and in 1912, they closed their mill. Clarence saw an opportunity to take over an operation that was closer to market than the Pendleton location. Clarence acquired the Washington operation in August 1912, and the mill was reopened with George Sault as superintendent.

December 24, 1915, Clarence, Chauncey and their father became incorporators of the Washougal mill. Brother Roy was not interested in that operation.

World War I broke out in 1914 and orders for army blankets kept the Washougal plant busy, and the Pendleton operation continued to produce the colorful Indian blankets. At the war's end, the Washougal mill began to produce virgin wool flannels and Washougal cashmere, which became a favorite throughout the clothing trade.

In 1918, Clarence Bishop started an operation in Vancouver, Washington. It was originally planned to produce woolen shirts and heavy woolen knit socks. But the demands of the Army during World War I forced them into producing khaki and gray yarns for army blankets. When the war ended, the mill began producing men's shirts of colorful flannels and plaids, which were a decided change from the more conservative grays and blues. With the end of World War I, the Bishop family had three mills operating at full capacity.

In 1919, an office was opened in Portland on the first floor of the Oregon building and served as a showroom as well as an office. Clarence felt it necessary to establish a more central location for marketing their products than Pendleton or Washougal.

When Walter Jackson of the Pendleton operation died in 1920, Chauncey moved to Pendleton to lend his support to Clarence. Chauncey's wife, Ruth Gabrielson Bishop, died in 1918 and left him with two small sons. The boys, Robert and Charles Kay, came to Pendleton with their father and attended grade school. Chauncey was active in community affairs and followed his brother, Roy, as Indian Director of the Pendleton Roundup.

Clarence Bishop married Harriet Broughton in Dayton, Washington. Her father, C.J. Broughton, was a well-known banker, merchant, and landowner in that town. Prior to their marriage, Pendleton had been the base of operation for the three mills, but after September 20, 1922, Portland became the home of Clarence and his wife and also the headquarters for the entire operation.

Clarence Morton Bishop, Jr. was born in 1925 and his brother, Boughton Hayward, arrived in 1927.

Clarence Bishop was active in every phase of the business and this included purchasing wool directly from the growers. On March 23, 1924, he and Mrs. Bishop were on a buying trip when they received word of a disastrous fire in the Washougal mill. The \$100,000 loss was covered by insurance, and by November a larger and more efficient mill was in operation.

Chauncey died in 1927 as the result of a hunting accident. He was on a duck hunting expedition at McKay Dam with Glen Stater and Sol Baum when he acciden-

tally shot himself while climbing up a bank. His companions rushed him to St. Anthony Hospital (in Pendleton) where Drs. Hattery and Kavanaugh were unable to save his life. At the time of his death, his son Robert was 17 years old and Charles Kay, 13.

Following Chauncey's death, Melvin D. Fell was hired as superintendent of the Pendleton mill. He was an experienced wool buyer and the son of Theron Fell who had held a management position in the Pendleton Wool Scouring Plant and the original Pendleton Woolen Mill.

It took some time for the company to work out of the Depression. Clarence approached the building years with caution and deliberation. By 1937, the business had reached the sales volume they had maintained before the crash.

In 1933, Robert graduated from Harvard Graduate Business School and joined the Company. Charles Kay Bishop joined the firm in 1939. He had attended Culver Military Academy, University of Oregon, and Philadelphia Textile School.

In 1949, Clarence Morton Bishop, Jr., joined the staff. He had served in the U.S. Marines during World War II, and following his military service he graduated from Yale.

Clarence and Robert turned their interests to women's wear. A line of jackets and skirts was the first production to test the market. One jacket really became popular and was dubbed "49'er" for the year it was introduced. It was a sellout from 1949 until 1957. Pendleton had now become a leader in men's and women's wear.

Broughton H. Bishop joined the firm in 1951. He had served in the U.S. Marines, graduated from Phillip's Academy, and finished his education at Yale and Philadelphia Textile School.

In 1954-55, Walt Disney was beginning to visualize his dream of Disneyland and offered Pendleton a location in Frontier Land. Discussions arose as to the reaction of dealers in other parts of the country. It was decided that a check for one-half of the profit margin would be sent to the dealer in the city from which the customer came. The idea proved to be a great success.

In 1960, the Roy Bishop family liquidated its stock in Pendleton Woolen Mills. Roy had died in Portland in 1950 at the age of 69. He served as the first Indian Director of the Pendleton Round-Up and "he established the principles of a relationship between the Round-Up Association and the Indian people based on mutual respect." He resided in Pendleton until 1919 when he went to Portland to establish the Oregon Worsted Mill. He was survived by his widow, Wilma Burmeister Bishop, a

daughter and two sons.

Clarence Bishop died July 11, 1969, just 60 years after he and his brother, Roy, came to Pendleton and took over the woolen mill. Clarence Bishop was considered to be a conservative man, but his ability to take responsible risks and his tireless efforts in the management of Pendleton Woolen Mills helped make the renowned organization what it is today.

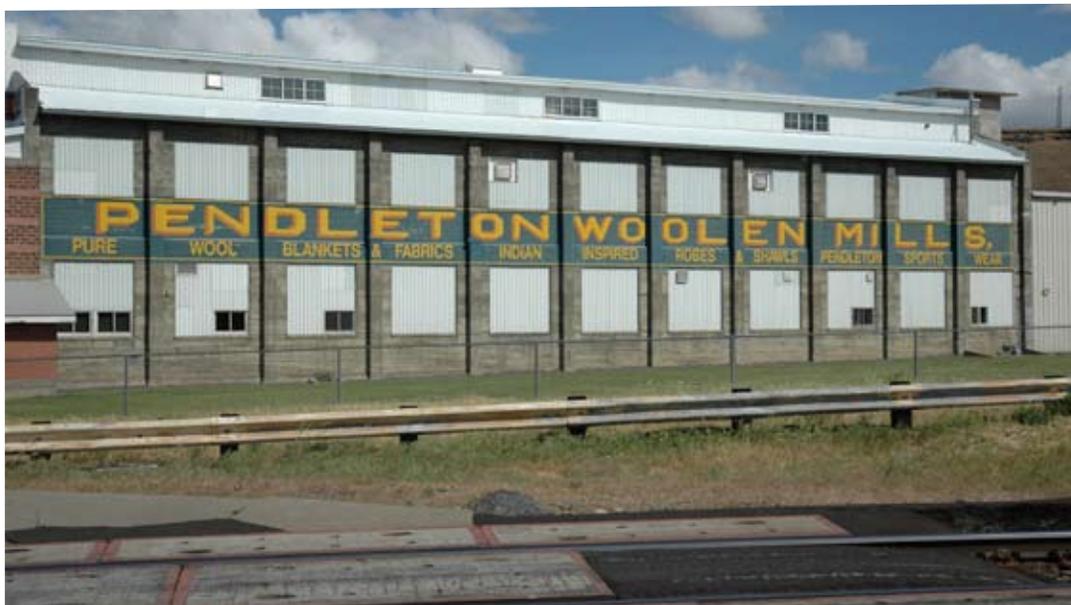
In 1982, the Bishop Brothers – Roy, Clarence Morton and Robert Chauncey – were inducted into the Round-Up Hall of Fame. Some 180 people, including their sons and relatives, attended the dinner to pay tribute to the honorees. C. M. “Mort” Bishop, Jr. of Portland, president of Pendleton Woolen Mills said, “My father and uncles would be very proud of their selection.” Also honored at the dinner were Chauncey’s son, Charles K., Pendleton Woolen Mills director from Washougal, and R. C. “Bob”

Bishop III, Portland, secretary of the corporation.

The mill in Pendleton continues in operation. Their showroom featuring men’s wear, women’s wear and Indian blankets attracts customers from all over the world.

Later Woolen Mills in Oregon” by Alfred L. Lomox and *The East Oregonian* were sources for this article. Reprinted by permission from the fall, 2004 edition of *Pioneer Trails*, a publication of the Umatilla County Historical Society Museum. Pictures provided by the Pendleton Woolen Mills Company.

GFO Life Member Ruth Chauncey Bishop is the daughter of Charles Kay Bishop and Eloise Connor; granddaughter of Robert Chauncey Bishop and Ruth Gabrielson, and great granddaughter of Charles Pleasant Bishop and Fanne E. Kay. For further information see <http://www.conner-bishop.org/>



Photographs courtesy of Pendleton Woolen Mills

Written in Stone

State of Oregon Historic Cemeteries Program

Kuri Gill

Historic Cemeteries Program Coordinator

The Oregon Historic Cemeteries program, part of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, was created by the state legislature in 1999. The purpose of the program is to identify, preserve, interpret and promote Oregon's historic cemeteries.

The legislation also created The Commission on Historic Cemeteries at the same time. Made up of seven members and serving cemeteries across the state, the current commissioners are: Judy Juntunen – Corvallis, Bob Keeler – Portland, Diana LaSarge – Pendleton, Mike Leamy – Astoria, Ken Phillips – Cave Junction, Lynn Reagan – Vale, Dirk Siedlecki – Eagle Point. They are an active group with a great body of knowledge including archaeology, community organization, historical research, cemetery operation, marker repair, Tribal perspective, and much more. The Commission meets four times per year in various locales throughout Oregon and commissioners often offer additional meetings in their geographic areas. Together, they solicit the needs of local cemetery supporters and, as a group the commission chooses the direction of the program and creates the tools to support local efforts. All meetings are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.

The program offers a number of resources: educational programming, materials, grants, and technical assistance from staff and commissioners. Educational programming has featured workshops covering topics such as: records management and preservation, fundraising, volunteer management, interpretation (tours, interpretive kiosks etc.) educational projects for school children and adults, issues for operating cemeteries, reading and interpreting markers, planning projects for successful grants, and tombstone repair. Other educational materials include technical bulletins and online resources. You may find many of these on the state website, www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/

OCHC. Some of the titles available are: Ways to Protect a Historic Cemetery, Marker Cleaning, Marker Replacement, How to Organize a Cemetery Cleanup, State Laws Pertaining to Cemeteries and more. These pamphlets can be downloaded from the state parks website. In addition, the state provided such materials as historic cemetery signs, workbooks and guides.

An important service is the grant program funded through Oregon Parks and Recreation Department lottery dollars. Grants are offered twice per biennium. Eligible projects promote the preservation of historic cemeteries and may include: fencing, lighting, interpretive signs, marker repair, survey and documentation and more. All cemeteries are eligible, the grant does not require 501(c)3 status. The program has funded small family cemeteries on private property. In the most recent cycle, 28 grants were awarded a total of \$54,000. Applications for the next grant cycle will be available in July 2011.

Kuri Gill is the coordinator of the program and is available to assist with questions and concerns regarding historic cemeteries and to share information about the grant program. Please contact her at Kuri.Gill@state.or.us or 503-986-0685.

Upcoming dates

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Meeting, April 9, Astoria

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Meeting, July 22, Cottage Grove

Cemetery Marker Repair Workshop, July 23, Cottage Grove

Grant applications available, July 2011

Relics

The Cobbler's Awl German Shoemakers in New York

Harvey Steele



Strip Awl

When family heirlooms are remembered, the tools of our ancestor's trade(s) are often forgotten. That is usually the case when our ancestors are listed as "farmers" on the census: the ploughs and other tools they used rarely survive to the present day and their specific application to family history rarely becomes part of our genealogical memory. If our ancestor was known to be a craftsman of some recognized type, or was employed in an occupation that involved handicraft work, the possibility of tool survival is often greater. Such is the case for my family.

My great grandfather, William Henry Steele, was a shoemaker, listed as such on the 1860 federal census for Herkimer County, New York. His father, same name, was also a shoemaker, listed on the 1860 and 1850 censuses for the same county. There is some evidence to suggest that their ancestors, who came to New York from Germany in the first quarter of the 18th century, also included shoemakers.¹

My Uncle Glenn inherited all the Steele family heirlooms from his father, Elmer Ellison Steele, my grandfather. In 1990, my uncle took me out to his cluttered garage in Garden Home to show me some of his lapidary equipment and, in the process of showing me his tools and collections, I noted a large awl, about seven inches long, with a worn oval oak handle. The handle was inlaid with a gray metal that I later identified to be German Silver, a kind of nickel alloy popular in Germany

and early America.

This tool, Glenn told me, had come from the workshop of his grandfather, William Henry Steele II. What else, I asked, had come from my New York ancestors? He rummaged through a large drawer filled with drill bits, pencils, screwdrivers, metal fasteners, and folded rules, and located a small knife. It had an iron blade, corroded and worn, and an oak handle of the same type as the awl. Glenn presumed that the awl and knife were carpenter's tools

My visit with Uncle Glenn took place several years before he died and we did not then know that our ancestors had been shoemakers, although our principal source of ancestral information was an older cousin, Genovia Ellison of Fredericksburg, Iowa, who had mentioned to him that both of the ancestor Steeles were "...handy in farm crafts, including repairing shoes..."



On the 1850 census for Danube, Herkimer County, New York, William Steele 33 is listed as a shoemaker, with his wife Mary (Catherine) and four children. At that time, Danube was a village very near to Little Falls, a large town which was the center of

Erie Canal commerce and located across the Mohawk River from the Remington Arms Company.³

On the 1860 census for Little Falls, William Steele 43 is listed as a shoemaker with \$450 real property and \$150 personal estate, with a family consisting of Mary 42, William 15 (now listed as a shoemaker), Charlotte 12, Charles 11, James 9, Chauncey 8, Frances 5, and Julius 1⁴ At this time, Little Falls was the commercial center of

upstate New York and a magnet for many of the German craftsmen who migrated in the early 18th century.

William Henry Steele Sr. was born 23 November 1816 in Otsego County, New York.⁵

He was a descendant of Rudolph Steele (original name spelled variously as Roelof Staehle, Stahley, or Stahl), born in Switzerland in 1675, died in New York 1770. Roelof Steele was one of original Palatine emigrants from the Rhine area in Germany, about 1710 and was naturalized in Albany, New York in 1715. His Burnetsfield patent land was lot 8 on the south side of the Mohawk River comprising the present site of Ilion, New York. The current village includes Steele Creek and Steele Street, bordering the land sold to Eliphalet Remington in 1816, which continues to be the site of what was once the largest factory in the country, the Remington Works, maker of rifles, shotguns, typewriters, shavers, and many other mechanical products.⁶

The 1855 New York state census shows that the state had 24,804 boot and shoemakers, 6745 of whom were in New York City alone. Of specific occupations (not including farmers and laborers and servants) that occupation ranked fourth behind carpenters and clerks (copyists) and tailors, and far ahead of merchants, blacksmiths, and teachers. Herkimer, with a population of 41,633, was one of the largest of the northern New York counties and, because of the Remington works and the Erie Canal industries, one of the most urbanized.⁷

The shoe industry in America was in the second phase of production. In the first period (1630-1760) in what has been called "nonlocalized hand shoemaking" each village made its own supply of shoes, using local materials, as did the individual households. Local shoemakers (sometimes called "cordwainers" if they worked with new leather, or "cobblers" if they worked with old leather) made footwear. As the German Palatines and other groups arrived from Europe, ethnic preferences added diversity to the shoemaking industry.⁸

The second phase (1760-1860) involved a switch from the individual town specialist to a small shop format. The change was earlier in eastern Massachusetts and the New York City-New Jersey-Philadelphia metropolitan area than in upstate New York, probably because of two factors, proximity to a larger urban market and the relative availability of tanned leather, the chief material for making shoes.⁹ In Little Falls, the shoemakers seem to be operating mostly in small "ten-footers", in which 2-6 men and women specialized in each step, from cutting, trimming, etc., to sewing.

By at least 1850, it would appear that the mechanized shoe factories of Lynn, Massachusetts, a major production center, were much more efficient than any production unit in upstate New York. By 1860, more than 50% of all wage earners in the boot and shoe business were working in Massachusetts, with only 11.2% in New York and 10.9% in Pennsylvania, the second and third states.¹⁰ Walter Knittle has summarized German Palatine trades in New York and Pennsylvania:

As the cheap clothing of kerseys, nap-shag and flannels, provided for the Palatines by the British government, wore out, the skins of the deer and beaver were fashioned into breeches, skirts, shoes and caps as protection from the elements. Shoes, excepting the moccasin, were made of heavy leather studded with iron clips for hard wear, and fastened with a buckle, or tied with leather thongs near the top.¹¹



PALATINE SHOES
Courtesy of Pennsylvania-German Society.

Knittle provides a drawing of a pair of Palatine shoes, courtesy of the Pennsylvania-German Society.

The use of the awl and curved leather knife was important. After the various sections of the upper were cut out, the awl was used to bore holes where the parts were to be fitted together. This completed upper was clipped over a last, which was of carved wood in the earliest period but sometimes cast iron in the late 18th century. An insole was tacked to the last and the edges of the upper were pulled over the last form and nailed into place. In the final stage, the shoemaker either sewed the outer sole to the shoe or pegged it together with wooden pegs. The shoe or boot was then ready for use.¹²

The third period (1860-1900) follows from the introduction of the McKay process into shoemaking. With the McKay sewing machine, shoemaking became a genuine factory process in the central shop, whether a "ten-footer" with skilled craftworkers or other assembly lines. As Hoover puts it:

By the later sixties, the factory manufacture of shoes was firmly established in such interior cities as Rochester, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, and Milwaukee... Among all the Midwestern Cities, the ones which by their promising prospects just before the Civil War had attracted a large share of the immigration from Germany, were the ones to go farthest in the shoe and leather industries, since they included a high proportion of village craftsmen skilled in these and other trades.¹³

William Henry Steele Sr. took his large family to Minnesota about 1861. They settled in the vicinity of Rochester, Minnesota, an industrializing town then

witnessing the beginnings of the Mayo Clinic. He died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 31 January 1908.

The question may well be asked: if he was a skilled German shoemaker, why did he leave industrialized New York? One answer is certainly in the general migration from the Atlantic seaboard to the upper Midwest that took place during this time. The incentives for craftsmen were not only promising in cheap land but also in higher wages. In the definitive compilation of wages in commercial countries and in the various states, shoemakers in Midwest towns and cities could make up to \$1.50 per day, topping the \$1.20 a day average for New York and Massachusetts and the \$0.20 per day of the German city-states during the 1850-1860 period.¹⁴

The awl and the leather knife were probably only a few of the tools of the trade which family historians can use to reveal historic phases in our genealogy. Every workshop in your family may have traces of the occupational past. For those interested in tracking down some of those otherwise hidden fragments (which might possibly have been saved as mysterious relics) there are several well-illustrated books. The one I use the most is by Alvin Sellens, *Dictionary of American Hand Tools* (Schiffer Publishing Ltd.: Atglen, PA). Tools of 18th and 19th century trades are very collectible in recent years and well-preserved examples have shown up in the Sothebys and Christies auctions at high prices.¹⁵

Ironically, the awl and the knife, relics of the handworking legacy of early shoemaking, may have been manufactured in Lynn, Massachusetts, which, by 1865, was the center for mechanized shoemaking and also advanced tool manufacture, although the use of oak and German Silver was also a trademark of 18th century German manufacture.¹⁶

(Endnotes)

1 U.S. Census, Herkimer County New York, 1850 and 1860

2 Correspondence, Mrs. Genovia Ellison, Fredericksburg, Iowa, to Glenn Steele, Garden Home, Oregon, June 10, 1958.

3 U.S. Census 1850

4 U.S. Census 1860

5 Theresa Bain Kadrie, Nellie Steele Bain, and Theresa Steele, *Obits and Pieces of Our Past, Descendants of William Henry Steele Sr. and Mary Catherine Dockstader*, privately published, Denver, Colorado, 2004.

6 William V.H. Barker, *Early Families of Herkimer County, New York: Descendants of the Burnetsfield Palatines* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.) 1986

7 Franklin B. Hough, New York State Census, 1855, *Journal of the American Geographical and Statistical Society*, Vol. 1, No. 7 (July 1859) pages 205-217.

8 E.M. Hoover, *The Location of the Shoe Industry in the United States*, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 47, No. 2 (Feb. 1933) pages 254-276.

9 Hoover 1933; also see Ross Thomson, *Crossover Inventors and Technological Linkages: American Shoemaking and the Broader Economy, 1848-1901*, *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 32, No.4 (October 1991) pages 1018-1046, which highlights such innovations as Benjamin Sturtevant's first practical shoe-pegging machine.

10 Hoover 1933: 265

11 Walter Allen Knittle, *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration* (Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.: Baltimore) 1965: 198-199,

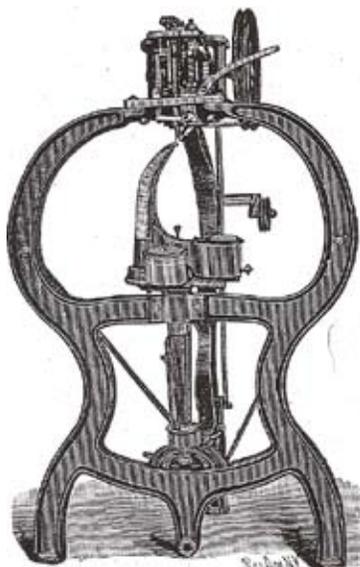
12 David L. Salay, *Marching to War: The Production of Leather and Shoes in Revolutionary Pennsylvania*, *Pennsylvania History*, Vol. 60, No. 1 (January 1993) 64.

13 Hoover 1933: 264

14 No author, "A compilation of wages in commercial countries from official sources, 15th annual report of the Commissioner of Labor", volume II (Washington: Govt. Printing Office) pages 1322-1327. This compendium, which covers every commercial country and every American state, from 1810 to 1900, shows that, in almost every industry, wages were higher in the Midwest than in the Atlantic coastal states and also higher than in the old Southern states.

15 Alvin Sellens, *Dictionary of American Hand Tools* (Schiffer Publishing Co.: Atglen, Pennsylvania) 19-22 and 431-438. Also see R.A. Salaman, *Dictionary of Leather Working Tools c. 1790 - 1950 and the tools used in the Woodworking and allied trades* (Charles Scribner Sons: New York) 1975 and Edwin Tunis, *Colonial Craftsmen* (World Publishing Company: Cleveland) 1972.

16 Ross Thomson, *The Path to Mechanized Shoe Production in the United States* (University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill) 1989.



Oregon County research

Researching in Benton County Oregon

Linda Olsen

Exploring genealogy records in the place where my ancestors lived in Benton County is a grand experience. Luckily, I live in the same area where several generations of my relatives were born and raised. Collecting bits and pieces of family history became a hobby that grew into a more serious genealogy inquiry. Deciding to trace back more generations required purposeful documentation of what I already knew. The oral family history and a few written accounts just needed more thorough research.

I made plans to visit several historical facilities and contacted the clerks and volunteers there who could help me locate information in their records. I joined the Benton County Genealogical Society. As a member, I had access to invaluable records, their extensive library, reference books, cemetery volumes, marriage records and family history files. Were any of my ancestors mentioned in the WPA interviews? To my delight there were two relatives who were interviewed. I could hug them for the historical treasure they left. These women had stories to tell of their families who traveled across the plains in covered wagons, which just made me want to search for more information. A cousin had posted a journal online, which was written by our 2nd Great Grand Uncle, James Madison Coon. (I had to look that up.) Another cousin wrote an article for our Corvallis newspaper and asked, "Who put the new tombstone on John Lewis's grave?" When I read that article, I couldn't wait to make a phone call. Making connections with someone living in the same town with the same genealogical interests, who just happens to be a distant relative, is so very rewarding. Another "small-world" moment was the realization that I am related to another member of the genealogical society, and a whole long-story of discovery later; we still haven't completely resolved our Allen connection. But that's all part of the challenge of unraveling the mystery. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentgs/>

A close relative to the Benton County Genealogical Society is the Benton County Historical Society and Museum in Philomath. These two historical sites are conveniently located next door to each other. The largest collection of information for Benton County resides with the Benton County Historical Society and Museum. <http://www.bentoncountymuseum.org/>

I could have spent days lost in the records in these two

buildings. Telephone directories, business directories, newspapers, obituaries, family files, photographs, maps and much more are easily found at the Benton County Historical Society and Museum. With their extensive Past Perfect database and helpful staff, the museum can easily locate information and photos they may have on individuals who lived in Benton County. In their library, I found two ancestors mentioned in David D. Fagan's History of Benton County, published in 1885. They had fought in the Rogue River Indian Wars of 1855-1856. That prompted me to send for their military records. One great grandfather, William F. Allen, was born in New York, raised in Ohio, and ended up in Oregon just prior to 1855. The other military record was for my great great grandfather, Winfield Scott Gibbs, who was born in Ohio and made his way to Oregon in time to participate in the Indian Wars in Southern Oregon, and settle in Benton County. Living in the same county, it's possible these two men and their families knew each other. Generations later, my father who was descended from the Allen line and my mother who was descended from the Gibbs line were married in Benton County. Documenting the oral stories from my family has added substance and meaning to my genealogical study.

The Government Land Office, (GLO) records are a rich source of information. If you suspect your ancestor came early enough, 1850 to 1855, to have a Donation Land Claim, (DLC), you are indeed in luck. These DLC records contain a wealth of information and can be found on line as well as in printed volumes in several locations aforementioned in Benton County.

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch/Default.asp>

DLC records give the name of the spouse plus the marriage date if the applicant is already married and wants additional land for his spouse. My William F. Allen's wife is listed on his DLC record, adding one more piece of evidence that this was truly the correct Allen document. Two other Allens who were both married before Benton County started keeping marriage records were also listed. The DLC records showed a middle initial for another Allen. The applicant had to have witnesses who vouched for the marriage as well as other personal information he may have known. The witness was often

a neighbor or a relative. Using the DLC information, I found a number of my ancestors on maps of the area, including the old Metzger maps. Armed with maps and cameras, visiting the actual home sites is still a great summertime excursion.

Taking time to look through the various rooms in the historic museum that was once a school and a church, I walked where my ancestors walked and climbed the same stairs and looked through the same windows at the town below. One of my cousins was married in the museum when it was a church in the 1950s. Several other relatives attended school there when it was a college. My aunt, who was a clerk, then postmaster in Philomath in the 1920s to 1940s, kept many of our Green family records. Some of these I had copied long ago and some I discovered in the museum files. Verifying what I already knew about my ancestors and discovering new gems along the way helped validate my history.

Check the times of the week the historical resources are open and what fees may be required. Letting the contact people know when I planned to arrive, helped them plan ahead too, and in some cases, they had gathered together some items for me to peruse. Volunteers may be available to assist with research also.

The Benton County Genealogical Society Newspaper Project is a great place to look for an obituary, marriage, or birth announcement and other articles of interest such as legal notices and pioneer reunions and celebrations. These all-important old newspaper microfilms are available at the Benton County Historical Society and Museum, and also at the Corvallis-Benton County Library and the Oregon State University Library, which have many other genealogical resources. Checking the index of surnames listed in Corvallis newspapers between 1865 and 1925 saved me some time and even added some surprises. The index lists the surname, given name and which newspaper it came from. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentgs/newsproj.html>

Next, I visited the gleaming white, historic Benton County Courthouse in downtown Corvallis, which still looks like its pictures in old history books. Walking through these halls is visiting the place where my ancestors surely walked. My father remembered coming to town as a child hand-in-hand with his father treading up the front steps of this courthouse to pay taxes about 1918. The Benton County Records and Licenses office in the courthouse stores older records. Four generations

of marriage records in my family are documented there. I found homestead information for my grandfather and great grandfather dated 1889 and 1892. Both lived and farmed on the slopes of Marys Peak, another historic landmark. Exploring the family homestead often pulled together several generations of relatives for a summer afternoon of clambering over thick brush where there once was a house and barns. A few fruit trees that my grandmother Green planted still stand up there as lonely sentinels. This is now in a restricted forest area and requires permission to hike there although hiking around the trails on Marys Peak is open to the public.

Clicking on the Benton County Inventory link at the Oregon Historical County Records Guide tells me if the records I want are at the Benton County Courthouse in Corvallis or if they are stored at the State Archives in Salem. Knowing ahead of time what records are actually at the courthouse saved me lots of time and frustration. Again, I've found that calling ahead and talking to the clerks and explaining what I want really helps make the trip worthwhile.

<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cpbentonhome.html>

Another tremendously helpful resource in Benton County is the Benton County Pioneer Database online at: <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=benton>.

If your ancestor is listed here, part of the research work may already be done for you. Checking the Benton County, Oregon Gen Web page will give you additional links around the area.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbenton/>

I found information on my ancestors in other counties surrounding Benton County as well. Something tells me that I'm not quite finished yet



Photo by Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

*Extracts . . .***Multnomah County, Oregon****Marriage Register Index 1911-1912**

Extracted and Proofed by Marie Diers and Eileen Chamberlin

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

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage	Year
Wagner	Chester A	Acton	Elizabeth		1911
Carpenter	C H	Adams	Estelle		1911
Schmidt	Frederick Paul	Agness	Hazel Edith		1911
Akre	Geo W	Akre	Fern L (Mrs)		1911
Bartmess	Franklin Elmer	Albright	Frankie Esther		1911
Bean	Ormund R	Allen	Iva V		1911
Jackson	William	Allen	Parnecia		1911
Felske	Christ	Allwasser	Julia		1912
Esenstein	Sol	Alovsky	Rose		1911
Kurzit	Edward	Anderson	Elizabeth M		1912
Glass	Charles	Anderson	Emma		1912
Erickson	Chas	Anderson	Esther		1912
Hendricks	Lyle V	Anderson	Grayce		1911
Larson	C O	Anderson	Ida L		1912
Felden	Ernie	Anderson	Lina		1911
Otman	Christopher	Anderson	Lucy M		1912
Bain	Donald	Anderson	Mabel		1911
Hendrickson	Otto	Anderson	Signa		1911
Terford	Wm H	Andes	Lulu		1912
McMenomy	Daniel	Angell	Blanch		1911
Johnson	Wilhelm	Anmendi	Jennie		1911
Hanson	Harry	Anttili	Impi		1912
Herzberg	Richard W	Apel	Laura A		1912
Santanna	Silvina Gonsales	Aquias	Mary		1911
Barngrover	William	Arata	Vita		1912
Wester	C A	Archambeau	Mary Ellena		1911
Vrooman	F E	Armstrong	Mildred		1911
Naegeli	John	Arnet	Mary		1912
Fredenthal	A B	Arnhoscek	Anna M		1911
Bichon	Pierre G	Ary	Victorine		1911
Hunter	Anderson L	Ashby	Ella		1912
Bennison	Orval E	Astle	Pansy Irene		1912
Nickerson	W S	Atcheson	Laura		1912

Multnomah Marriages Continued:

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Atherton	E A	Atherton	Myrtle B	1911
Orr	Wilson Thomas	Atwood	Harriet Sterling	1911
VandeBogart	Pierce	Austin	Marie	1911
Greenly	A B	Avery	Minnie G	1911
Bridwell	Harry A	Aylmore	Kittie M	1911
Olson	August	Baavi	Alfreda	1911
Munson	F A	Backlund	Martha	1912
Gaggero	Joe	Baitano	Jennie	1912
Edgar	Chester C	Baker	Anna Murial	1911
Leslie	Lester M	Baker	Lea Ruth	1912
Jeffrey	Geo E	Baker	Lottie Dorothy	1911
Gill	J P	Balfour	Ida	1912
Marco	Fred	Ballard	Sadie	1912
Duggan	Melvin E	Balzima	Olga	1911
Franks	E L	Barker	Clara F	1912
Parker	Franklin S	Barker	Gertrude H	1911
Gilchrist	James L	Barker	Margaret A	1912
Piper	Alex	Barney	Bertha	1911
McRae	James R	Barney	Bessie C	1911
Scaife	James C	Barney	Jeanette	1912
StSanders	Gilbert	Barrett	Gertrude	1911
Spicer	G W	Bartell	Minnie J	1911
Russell	E E	Bartlett	Corena	1911
Montgomery	Charles E	Bartlett	Grace P	1912
Jaster	H W	Bartlett	Melvina (Mrs)	1911
Gilhousen	Ernest D	Barton	Lucia E	1911
Palmer	C M	Bass	Mary C (Mrs)	1912
Holzman	Ben D	Baylor	Sarah	1911
Bocholz	William	Beadell	Bernice	1911
VanDyke	Harry Elmor	Beals	Nancy Augusta	1911
Pope	Terrel	Bearel	Lula M	1911
Karneld	James	Becker	Katie	1911
Diller	Albert	Beekman	Lena M	1911
Friend	Grover Amos	Beier	Tillie Carolina	1911
Oreste	Joe	Belardoni	Lucia	1912
Phillips	Leevan Harold	Bell	Ruth Edwina	1911
Wood	Darwin	Bell	Violet	1912
Wnuk	Stephen F	Bellinger	Leah M	1912
Zrieden	C E	Benbow	Mae	1911
Danly	H C	Bender	Alice	1911
Caster	George O	Bennett	Grace J	1911
Arrowsmith	Henry M	Bennett	Mabell C	1911

Multnomah Marriages Continued

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Peterson	Carl Algot	Berg	Anna Marie	1911
Thorp	Helmer Magna	Berg	Ester Marie	1911
Knudson	Ludwig	Berg	Gudrun	1912
Jacobson	Peder B	Berg	Inga Matilde	1911
Dohlberg	Eric	Berg	Jennie	1911
Blankenholm	Afred B	Bergerson	Thresa	1911
Hall	Archie E	Bernash	Lena M	1912
Woods	Bert H	Bernhardt	Mary	1911
Voorhees	Raymond E	Berry	Lulu A	1912
Beale	Edgar M	Berthiammi	Nettie M	1912
Claussen	Fred	Betz	Dora J	1911
Fuzk	Joseph	Bick	Josephine	1912
Ramage	William J	Bieloh	Hazel Francis	1911
Smith	Lewis C	Bigger	Ada May	1911
McFarland	Eben	Billings	Sue	1912
Goldstone	Samuel	Binnard	Anna	1911
Morgan	Henry	Bird	Anna	1911
Williams	Frank	Bisbee	Anna	1911
Wood	Russ H	Black	Gussie	1912
Black	M E	Black	Nellie R	1912
Coffman	Wilber Lewis	Blair	Almeta Dot	1912
Estes	Harry F	Blakelock	Margaret P	1911
Robinson	Geo	Blanchard	Eugenia Alberta	1911
Smith	John F	Blanchard	Mary Gertrude	1912
Butler	Benj F	Blockman	Bella C	1912
Steel	Gotthard	Bloomquist	Ella	1911
Powers	Roy O	Bock	Frances	1912
Gosson	James	Bonomi	Louise	1911
Standifer	Guy M	Boschke	Margerilt E	1911
Sill	Ernest	Boster	Minnie	1912
Jones	Archie	Bowers	Lulu	1912
Krause	Albert J	Bowlus	Willa Foster	1912
Nichol	Wm	Boyle	Bessie	1912
Maitland	James	Bradley	Blanch Augusta	1912
Twiss	Robert A	Brady	Gertrude T	1911
Porcelli	Vincenzo	Brandi	Rosina	1912
Beaudoin	Sam H	Branean	Marion	1912
Friedman	Chas	Braunstein	Dora	1911
Bauer	John	Bretthauer	Moly	1912
Craig	E J	Brewer	Clara L	1912
Guthrie	Stephen Levi Ross	Brice	Elsie Ellen	1911
Birgfeld	R W	Brink	Blanche B	1911

Multnomah Marriages Continues

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Robertson	Elford L	Britton	Lillian E	1911
Reed	Henry Elmer	Brock	Vivien Esther	1912
Rasmussen	Mathias	Brog	Eliza C	1911
Jacobs	Herman	Bronk	Edna	1911
Obee	Richard Rippen	Brooks	Elizabeth Warren	1912
Avaine	Blaz	Brown	Bessie	1911
Roberts	Bruce W	Brown	Dorothy Ellen	1912
Young	Harry L	Brown	Edna M	1912
Casseday	Frank Fisher	Brown	Flora Agnes	1911
Stiegeler	U F	Brown	Hattie	1911
Kerns	Ernest L	Brown	Lola G	1912
Partton	James William	Brown	Lucinda C	1911
Ormsby	Will J	Brown	Mabel J	1911
Schaffner	Herman	Brown	Sarah E	1912
Anthony	Frank	Bruce	Jennie	1911
Koll	Chas	Brue	Bella	1912
Gloss	Julius	Bruehler	Cordelia	1912
Caron	Joe	Brunell	Esther	1912
Rickert	Loyal H	Bryan	Helen (Mrs)	1912
Maxwell	N J	Bryant	Zoa V	1912
Clark	Harry L	Buchanan	Madeline	1911
Anspach	Edward Hilmer	Buckminister	Ethel Mabel	1912
Jackson	George Charles	Budd	Vinnie Reme	1912
Sailor	George Raymond	Buehner	Marguerite Catherine	1911
Nobles	Robert	Buehner	Meta Maria	1912
Mulrony	W J (Dr)	Buhler	Isabelle	1911
Butt	Walter	Bunn	Clara	1912
Oester	John J	Burdick	Carrie E	1911
Clark	Arthur	Burge	Hazel	1911
Lee	Herbert W	Burgess	Rosa	1912
Mahan	Perry	Burgoyne	Mable L	1912
Anderson	Fred	Burkhardt	Adria	1911
Alfron	Christ	Burkland	Emelia	1911
Albert	James Martin	Burns	Jane Irene	1911
Kerchoff	Henry W	Burns	Kate	1911
Schied	E C	Burton	Pearl	1912
Johnson	Samuel	Busch	Charlotte	1911
Butchers	W A	Butchers	Abbie D	1911
Ellis	Jas A	Butler	Anna C	1911
Moxley	R B	Butler	Emma	1911
Kingery	Ralph C	Butler	Thresa R	1911

Multnomah Marriages Continued

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Mathes	John J	Cains	Pearl E	1911
Miller	Guy E	Callicotte	Halo Naomi	1911
Philan	Sam	Calof	Esther	1912
Cook	Lester M	Cameron	Jennie Marguerite	1911
Hoffman	Frank S	Candall	Mabel E	1911
McGuire	John P	Cannon	Lomaine D	1912
Ruli	Serofino	Capassi	Mari Olympia	1912
Abramson	G	Carahel	Margaret F	1911
Jones	Robert	Carew	Gertrude	1911
Simmons	E S	Carey	June (Mrs)	1911
Peters	F S	Carl	Lenora	1911
Foth	Ferdinand	Carlson	Ernestine (Mrs)	1911
Hull	O O	Carlson	Mable (Mrs)	1912
Brakebusch	Walter	Carlson	Manny	1912
Forrest	L L	Carns	Martha E (Mrs)	1911
Devers	Clarence C	Carothers	Alice	1912
Dahl	Victor	Carpenter	Grace	1911
Baltes	Joseph	Carpenter	Lena	1912
Gowing	Milton A	Carson	Annie W	1911
Roe	J L	Carter	May E	1911
Bailey	Edward A	Cartwright	Maude	1912
Evans	W M	Castillo	Helena	1911
Canfield	Lawrence M	Cathcart	M Mande	1911
Hannerkratt	Clarence	Cauthorn	Francis J	1912
Butzer	George	Cave	Henrietta	1912
DiMartino	Giovanni	Ceconette	Marianina	1911
Cusick	Rolla Wade	Ceybird	Anna Elizabeth	1911
Galondek	Robert	Chamberlain	Ella A	1911
Rawley	A W	Chaney	Minnie B	1911
Williams	Charles	Chapelle	Nell	1912
Turk	James H	Chapman	Hannah	1912
Conick	Clyde E	Cheever	Ethel	1911
Davis	Alva S	Chelsate	Violet L	1911
Stephan	Leonard	Cherson	Bertha	1912
Wilcox	A W	Chipman	Rose	1911
Cater	Charles Roy	Christensen	Lona	1912
Jones	S P	Christiansen	Katie	1911
Anderson	B J J	Christopher	Lulu	1911
Hosford	Olin J	Claggett	Francis L	1911
Tees	John M	Clark	Lila L	1912
Wilkinson	H O	Clark	Lou L (Mrs)	1911
Lamb	John C	Clark	Maybell C	1911

Multnomah Marriages Continued

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Foland	Carl Philip	Clark	Millie Ethel	1912
Freeman	Thomas Foster	Clark	Nina May	1912
Upshaw	Francis B	Clark	Verona G	1911
Thelander	James	Clemens	Lou	1912
Spickelmier	Walter C	Clements	Cressa A	1911
Root	George W	Cline	Beulah B	1912
Meyers	J C	Cline	Meda	1911
VanMeter	Herman	Cline	Nellie	1911
Cruikshank	Robert B	Coburn	Marion E	1912
Hockinson	Archie J	Cochran	Edith P	1911
Laznik	Ben	Cohen	Rosie	1911
Lewis	Chas A	Cole	Grace	1912
Campbell	A R	Coleman	Lois G	1911
McCleery	William E	Coles	Olive I	1911
Martin	Guy C	Collar	Laura C	1912
Bowlby	Lawrence Hollis	Collier	Grace E	1912
Samford	Robert W	Colvig	Anna P	1911
Reid	Franklin R	Conklin	Elizabeth J	1911
Kaufman	Elmer G	Conley	Anna E	1911
McFarling	Wm D	Conn	V Pearl	1911
Blanchard	Percy M	Connell	Hannah J	1911
Bowles	Walter C	Conner	Abby H	1912
Myers	Frank L	Connoly	Minnie P	1911
Hanawalt	Clyde S	Connor	Louise F	1912
Lapham	John	Conroy	Mary Agnes	1911
Pigg	James E	Conwell	Esther	1911
Lipp	George F	Cook	Louis M	1912
Dean	William Lynn	Cook	Olive (Mrs)	1912
Rossetto	Giovanni	Curletto	Maria	1911
Pengilly	Joseph Hill	Curtis	Carolyn Almyra	1911
Brooks	John	Curtis	Nancy	1912
VonLind	John	Dale	Carrie	1911
Goodnight	Ray	Daly	Eunice Anna	1911
Sposito	Sam	Damato	Marie Grazzia	1912
Rivers	Lewis	Darrow	Amy	1911
Johannessen	Helmer	Davidson	Anna	1911
Blumenfeld	Dave	Davidson	Minnie	1912
McDaniel	E W	Davis	Cora E	1911
Shepard	John	Davis	Ella Burl (Mrs)	1912
Bunten	John	Davis	Harriett	1911
Lind	Samuel H	Davis	Helen Farley	1912
Smith	LeRoy B	Davis	Laura M	1912

Multnomah Marriages Continues

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Farme	James Brooks	Davis	Mae	1911
Griffith	Samuel Hannibal	Davis	Phoebe Ann	1912
Turner	Chester N	Dayton	Bernice C	1911
Dean	Claude	Dean	Lottie	1911
Helmer	George E	Debolt	Dora Ella	1911
Stout	E D	Deming	M L	1912
Zachisson	Anselmo	Densmore	Maud B	1911
Kalk	Albert H	Dern	May E	1911
Levinson	M Max	DesMoineaux	Hazel	1911
Hunter	J E	Devan	Kate (Mrs)	1912
Chown	D Bamford	Dewey	Helen	1912
Russell	Wm	DeWolf	Ida May	1911
Wheeler	Frank L	Dickinson	Jessie P	1911
Dunlap	John W	Dickinson	Lorica A	1911
Tennant	Allison	Dickson	Alfreda M	1911
Overstreet	Gilbert W	Dickson	M Bessie	1911
Nostrom	Andes Olaf	Dillstrom	Anna Margrete	1912
Wells	W W	Dits	Altha	1911
Harris	Frank	Dixon	May	1912
Nasburg	Claude	Doble	Helen Mary	1912
Bartram	Albert J	Dodge	Jane	1912
Vosper	Alfred	Doeneka	Mabel L	1911
McConnell	N L	Dogens	Evelena	1912
Hasson	Thos F	Doherty	Grace (Mrs)	1912
Boorer	Robert Edgar	Dolzill	Hollee May	1911
Horeeni	Adolf	Domaiko	Martha	1911
Cort	Benjamin Frank	Dominick	Marie	1911
Kindred	J J	Donnerberg	E	1912
O'Hern	Ed	Dooney	Rose	1912
Harman	Frank	Dougan	Ella (Mrs)	1911
Mercier	Thomas F	Downing	Edith A	1912
Lord	Percy S	Drake	Gladys S	1911
Morrison	G A	Drurnmond	Olive E	1912
Ballin	Jacob H	Dudley	Evelyn P	1911
Lines	Walter Tills	Dudley	Grace Alma	1911
Cyrus	William G	Dugan	Mabel (Mrs)	1912
Hill	Wm	Dunbar	Ella	1912
Phillips	G W Edmond	Dunn	Hilma Genevieve	1911
Moline	B L	Duse	Emma	1911
Joice	Joseph A	Dutcher	Mildred A	1911
Munroe	George W	Dutton	Jean	1912
Card	George D	DuVogel	Anna R	1912
Davies	John E	Dyckeman	Perle A (Mrs)	1912

Book Reviews...

Samuel Taylor Geer, *Callaways of Western Wilkes County, Georgia, Ancestors, Descendants, and Allied Families of John and Bethany Arnold Callaway*, Gateway Press, Inc. Baltimore, Maryland, 2007, i-xiv for intro pages, and Plot Map of Callaway Family Cemetery; 845 pages in the main text. Ordering information: Samuel Taylor Geer, 5822 Riverstone Circle, Atlanta, GA 30339-8412.

Audience: Persons who have ancestors and descendants of Job, John, Joseph, and Joshua Callaway buried in the Callaway Family Cemetery located near the Wilkes County town of Rayle, Georgia. Most interested in this study would be descendants of Enoch Callaway and Martha "Patsy" Reeves. Enoch was the youngest son of John and Bethany Arnold Callaway.

Purpose: To provide profits from the sale of the book to benefit CALLAWAY CEMETERY, INC., a non-profit company that maintains the family cemetery.

Author's Qualifications: No mention is made of the author's family history or genealogical education. He is a Certified Public Accountant with extensive experience. The rigorous skills required for that designation would indicate that an organized mind, perhaps with help from others, put this volume together.

Content: The book concentrates on the descendants of John Callaway and Bethany Arnold. It also traces the allied families into which their descendants married. This volume contains a map of the Callaway Family Cemetery with all the burials identified. Following the map is a list of each of the burials number-coded to the cemetery.

Writing Style: Writing style is very clear. Facts are noted as questionable when appropriate. Estimates are stated when they are not known. Most material and data stem from family histories, published works or from newspaper obituaries or articles. The author relied on information from many family members who shared their stories. The author has deftly integrated them into the text between citations and articles. There are no footnotes or endnotes in this volume. They would have lent more validity to the facts used in the extensive text and citations.

Organization: The book follows the number pattern in the cemetery. Each section contains a multiple generation outline from an original ancestor. That list may take the individual in the cemetery back to an original colony or to England, Ireland, Germany or other country

of origin. The book contains over 900 transcriptions for obituaries and news articles. There are many abstractions and extractions from works by other authors. There are almost 100 photographs; many are of the stones and monuments in the cemetery. There are three Appendixes. "A" is a list of the burials by ID# which includes brief references to descendants or ancestors. "B" contains the same interments but listed alphabetically. "C" is "Callaway Connections in Wilkes Co., Georgia, *An outline of the family connections of the descendants of Edward Callaway.*" This is in the same outline form as other descendancy lists in the text. There is an extensive 96 page Index that contains the first name of each surname entered.

Accuracy: There is no quick way to test accuracy. There is so much detail in the data that would imply careful consideration of each fact managed in the extensive text. Most of the data came from books or publications, or from obituaries and articles in newspapers. These latter sources probably corroborated the material in the published works. However, there are no footnotes that can lead us back to some of the detail in the descendancy lists. There is probably enough information in each of the records used to be able to find the original source. Most of the material in the book is about a portion of Wilkes Co., Georgia. Data items should be easy to verify.

Conclusion: This is a very interesting book. It's content, construction and style are of the highest quality. It isn't often we see an extensive genealogical work focused on one cemetery. The Callaways are/were a very prominent family. This publication should be a resource for anyone searching those multiple families allied to the Callaways in western Wilkes County, Georgia. Since Wilkes County is near the Savannah River and South Carolina, it might also be useful to researchers working in those areas.

Gerald S Lenzen

Clarence E. Mershon, *Women of World War II, Guardian Peaks Enterprises, 2010, one volume, first edition, 314 pages.*

When I volunteered to review books for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, I was surprised to find one that included somebody I knew. Clarence E. Mershon's "Women of World War II" featured Alleyne Knouff's accomplishments along with those of her husband, William. I had worked for Bill at Madison High School in Portland, Oregon, and met Alleyne once or twice. As a navy nurse, Alleyne helped wounded men recover sufficiently to get back in the fighting. A pleasant

surprise for me was learning of Bill's naval flying career with a carrier at the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He was decorated for his service and later wounded when another pilot started a propeller too close to Bill. Alleyne had to give up her navy nursing career when she married Bill, because of policies then about married women working in the Navy.

Audience: The very fact that Bill Knouff's experiences were included in the book surprised me since the title of the work is about women. I realized before reading very much that this is really a book intended for people interested in the history of families from East Multnomah County and their WWII stories. Quite a lot is written about the men, children, grandchildren, and other family members. Since I have friends who live in Troutdale, I continued to read.

Purpose: Brief histories are included to help the reader understand what the women and their families endured.

Content: The section on routes of hospital ships was rather dull because no particular women were included. The Kraft mill at Bridal Veil, Henry J. Kaiser's shipyards, Birdseye Snyder Foods, and many other employers of women round out what could have been only a military story. Japanese and German Americans are featured along with the other residents of the area. At times, one wishes to get back to the women and their stories. Still, I don't think Mr. Mershon made a mistake in history. Future readers are not going to know why it was unusual that women built ships, nursed, farmed, and helped earn money to keep their families alive. Times have changed so much that younger people may take such things for granted.

One comment from Mershon about someone moving to Oregon and getting a draft deferment to work in the shipyards would have made my father angry. Robert N. Leppert, my father, lived in Portland all his life and assisted his father as a boat builder. He had a responsible position in the shipyards and hoped he, too, would avoid the draft. Nothing doing! He flew bombers throughout the War as a US Army Air Corps Flight Officer.

Accuracy: The facts gathered by Mr. Mershon are quite impressive. The photos are well documented. Quotations abound. The index is helpful if one is looking for a person or place. Other than that, I see little documentation.

Author's Qualifications: On the Internet, I learn the author has long been active in the Troutdale Historical Society and the Vista House. As a younger man, he was a Mazaama. Probably, a good deal of his book is from

first hand knowledge and interviews of friends. I lean to that latter comment because there is some variation in the tone of the vignettes of the various women. One of them is positively chatty, and the remainder of them are quite stolid.

Conclusion: This is not a book I would sit down and read cover to cover for fun. That being said, the collection of this information on "the greatest generation" is a real service, and I am glad to have found it.

The cover of this book pictures Jean McKillop as a cadet nurse. As I write this review, I find the obituary of her husband in the Gresham Outlook paper for January 22, 2011. He fought at Corregidor, was interned in a prisoner of war camp and went to Manchuria as a prisoner-laborer. What a remarkable life these people led!

Judith K. Leppert

Cynthia Peabody Anderson, Pioneer Voices From Plymouth to Breckenridge, The Peabody Family Over Eleven Generations, Summit Books, Lexington, Massachusetts, 1999, 236 pgs. Send orders to Summit Books, 3 Currier Court, Lexington, MA 02420.

Audience: The focus audience for this book is the Peabody Family descended from John Peabody and his sons William and Frances and related families, as well as those who want to understand the history of New England settlers and Colorado pioneers.

Purpose: The intent of the book is to share the author's knowledge of her personal family and events surrounding their lives. On the following website is a further explanation of information that is shared in the book. <http://www.tidewater.net/~jayn/Cindy/home.html>

Author's qualifications: There are no specific qualifications listed in the book.

Content: The book has twenty chapters. The first three are based on the family's New England settlement, the lives of the settlers and the Native Americans living there. The next chapter covers the family from 1700 to 1884 in four pages. Then the family journey from New York to Colorado is related in thirty pages, is incorporated into the history of those areas. There are chapters on Indians of the American West, and Pioneer Women and the West, which share the author's views of these historical elements. The remainder of the book, chapters ten through twenty, focuses on life in Colorado and the related family.

Writing Style: The style is easy reading.

Organization: At times it can be confusing as to

how a particular person is related, as the text wanders through the family history. Most of the history is first hand knowledge combined with the historical knowledge of the author. The book includes 226 high quality pictures, family documents, charts and maps, and is well formatted.

Accuracy: This work seems to be accurate with regards to the family information included. There are no citations for sources. She does include a bibliography and photography credits and the work is indexed. On the website she indicates that the work is based on Selim Hobart Peabody's 1909 Genealogy. The author shares much of her personal opinion and often states facts as first hand knowledge, where it is really just conjecture.

Conclusion: This book is enjoyable to read, but one must realize the personal biases shown in some of the content. It is definitely not the norm of family histories. Rather the text provides a well thought out glimpse into the lives of this line of the Peabody family who migrated from New England to Colorado.

Susan LeBlanc

Jeannine Walton Talwar, Matthias Paulen Rethlefsen and spouse Nellie George, early settlers on San Juan Island, Washington, into six generations of descendants, self published, 2009, 139 pgs. Inquire about orders at: 192 Orchard Pass Ave., Unit 518, Ponte Vedra, Florida, 32081.

Audience: This book will be of interest to those who descend from the Rethlefsen family that came from West Langenhorn, Bredstedt, Schleswig, Germany to the United States. It will also be of interest to those who had family settle on San Juan Island, Washington.

Purpose: The author wrote the book because of the relationship of her maternal grandparents with this family. They were indirectly related to the Rethlefsen family. James Peter Rethlefsen married Marie Christina Knudtsen, an aunt of the author's maternal grandmother Nicola Catherina Braren. She was fascinated by the family and wanted to ensure their family history was preserved.

Author's qualifications: No specific qualifications of the author are included with the book.

Content: The book includes research results found both in Germany and the United States of the family history and documentation of events in the Rethlefsen family. Five brothers came to America: Theodore born 5 April 1828, died about 1871; James Peter born 27 November 1829, died 1 August 1924; Mathias Paulen born 25 July 1832, died 17 February 1895; Siegfried

Wilhelm born 4 October 1834, died 24 March 1917; and Hans Jurgen born about 1837, died 30 October 1858 at sea on the journey to America. The book includes all known descendants to the sixth generation and information found for each individual. A sister, Sophia Helena, born about 1840, died 28 October 1880, remained in Germany.

Writing Style: The writing style is interesting. It appears that the first part for each person is from a genealogy database and is computer generated. Following this are the various documents and newspaper articles related to each person.

Organization: The book is a collection of information from many resources. These include personal family documents, writings, letters, and diaries, newspaper articles and obituaries, vital records, cemetery and funeral home records, census, deeds and land records, estate and probate records, guardianship records, historical information, and speeches. Data is done in date sequence, as it interlaces the various types, to flow in a continuous matter over time. There are numerous good quality pictures throughout the book. The descendant charts in the appendix are helpful in understanding the family units. There is no index, but in the credits are included lists of research sources, individuals consulted, documents in German and in English, photos, and publications referred to in the text.

Accuracy: The book has been put together in a format so that one can easily understand the vast amount of resources used. Some of the references are from ancestry.com. There are no formal citations, but each reference includes a limited amount of information about the source used.

Conclusion: This is a very interesting book to read. Unfortunately it is more focused on records available through online databases, newspaper articles and court records rather than personal stories and information. These references tend to focus on family difficulties and not the personal family remembrances that might be more positive. The historical perspective on the settlement of San Juan Island is intertwined throughout the book.

Susan LeBlanc

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



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