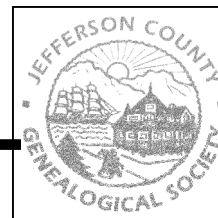


GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



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MIGRATING TO CALIFORNIA IN A
COVERED WAGON

Contributed by Lorrell Louchard

In 1863, Margaret Beavers Polsley, her husband, John Scott Barnes Polsley and their two children, Harry about 5, and Clare, about 1 year old, emigrated from Clarinda, Page County, Iowa to California in a covered wagon. In 1877, Margaret Polsley wrote the following account of the early part of their journey:



An unnamed pioneer family in Nebraska ca 1886
From the National Archives

It was early spring and the ground was wet and muddy. We had traveled across the beautiful prairies of southwest Iowa, and came to a deep forest of Cottonwood, which grew on the bank of the Missouri. It was so dense that the sound of a whip, or the neighing of a horse, echoing among the trees, would make you think there were panthers, or other wild beasts near. Then horse thieves were numerous in that country, which added to our fearfulness.

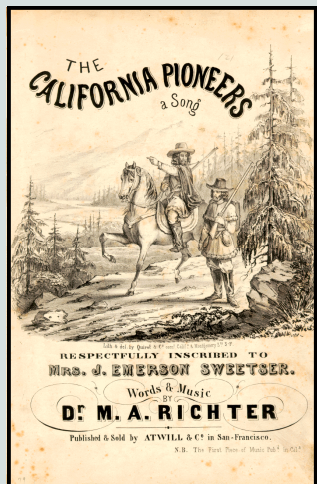
And then there was the Hoo-aw of the hideous owl, which rang with frightful notes in our ears, making our first camping more terrible than enjoyable. We had a large fire of logs, and made a tent of coverlets, but we could not sleep in such a wilderness.

Then the only transportation across the plains and mountains were in wagons, the Missouri river was the starting point. Each wagon was fitted up with such provisions as would last many weeks, or months. We got our outfit at Nebraska City. Our wagon was packed so full we scarcely had room for the last articles.

There were other parties going from Iowa to Colorado. They wishing to go with us, we piled their baggage in, thinking they would protect us from wild Indians. The first day was warm and pleasant. We camped near a slough. The prairie was rolling; all the way from the river seemed to gradually rise.

We spread a carpet for Clare, she being too young to sit up, but she didn't like such usage. Our cooking was done on a small sheet iron stove, and was tedi-

(Continued on page 3)



MIGRATION RESEARCH IN THE JCGS LIBRARY

By Bev Brice

The stories of our families' migrations are one of the most interesting aspects of family history. The first challenge is knowing where and when they moved. The next part of the puzzle is understanding how they traveled and why they did it.

Learning the "where and when" about your family requires the usual research sources. Of particular help in this case are local histories, land and tax records, probate records, church records, census both federal and state, court records, and pension records. You will find those records in our library for some locations. Look at the Library Catalog on our website to see what we have for the country, or state and country you are researching. You can also come into the Library and the volunteer on duty will help point you in the right direction. A useful reference for Migration Research is **Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources, chapter on Westward Expansion**.

To understand how they traveled and why they went is a particularly fun part of your research. We have some specific references that may be of use to you. Let me start with local histories once again. They can be an invaluable source of information about the local areas of residence and provide clues like condition of the farmland or regional economic conditions. The historical context can be expanded by **Westward Expansion, a History of the American Frontier**, and **American Colonies**, outlining the development of settlements before the Revolution. Another book giving interesting background is **Historic Storms of New England** to see how climate might have affected the family. Information on specific migrations can be found in the following:

The Great Wagon Road. This book covers Philadelphia down the Shenandoah Valley, with emphasis on German and Scot Irish settlers.

The Yankee Exodus. This book addresses migrations from New England discussing patterns of settlement.

Passports of South Eastern Pioneers 1770-1823. This book covers permission to move through Indian and foreign held territory east of the Mississippi River.

Westward of Ye Laurel Hills 1750-1850. The how and why of settlement of Western Pennsylvania.

The Trail to Oregon, Women's Diaries of the Western Journey, Westering Women, Sea Routes to the Gold Fields, and Cherokee Trails Diaries. These books all deal with the travel west across the country. Even if your family did not leave a diary, you can get a feeling for the experience by seeing what others wrote.

When you are working with a specific ethnic group, look for information that pertains to them at the time that your family migrated. Some examples from our library are:

New Netherland. This book is a history of the Dutch settlement in what became New York.

Becoming German, 1709 Palatine Migration to New York. This is a fascinating social history of this special group of German immigrants.

The Scotch Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania. This book discusses settlement

"GOOGLE BOOKS"

Our favorite search engine, "Google" has a new feature you should check out.

<http://books.google.com> is a book search engine that lets you search in books for names or other specific words within the text!

In some cases you can read the entire book on line. In other instances it lets you review the table of contents, gives you sample pages and shows related books. It also shows you where you can buy the book or the closest library where you can borrow it.

Under "Advance Book Search" you can refine your search categories.

CHECK IT OUT!

(Continued on page 6)

COVERED WAGON (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

ous. After our evening meal was over, the moon shone with such magnificent splendor that we were assured that God would protect us.

On the third day we reached Blue River. A few trees grew there, and we might have had a pleasant camping, but there arose such a hurricane that we could scarcely see for the dust and sand. We were eating supper when a sweeping blast whirled our cups and plates, burying some completely in the dust. I took the children and hurried into the wagon, but the storm lasted till morning.

Traveling on the plains in Nebraska in March was unpleasant; so cold and windy. But the scenery before us was new: changing a little sometimes as we crossed creeks or branches where there stood a few dwarfish trees. One of our party, called Dick, had traveled the road before. He took pleasure in informing the rest what place was next.

Human habitations were few and far between. A few lived on the road by selling horse feed and a few other articles to travelers at enormous prices. Dick knew the name of each place. The first one I remember was "Hole in the Ground". A bachelor lived there. He might have lived in the ground, but he had a house. Firewood was scarce, and we generally hired a room to cook in.

The first Indians were standing around a store. We had never seen any before, and viewed them curiously. We were ahead of most immigrants, but there were plenty of freight trains.

While traveling on the plains we met with a number of mishaps; such as a wagon tire getting loose, and axles breaking. On such occasions we had to unload in the dirt wherever it happened, and have them mended. One day, we had made a long drive, the sun had set, and daylight was gone. We had about two miles to go before we reached the station where we could camp. Suddenly, a wheel smashed, and what do you think we did? Stopped. Yes, for awhile until the men went to the station, borrowed a wagon wheel, carried it on their shoulders with a stick through the middle, and placed it where the broken one had been; and then we were enabled to reach the camping ground, but no sooner than we stopped and Jacob Powers was unhitching the horses—when someone pitched the wagon tire out with a ringing sound. The leading horses took fright and ran off, and could not be found in the dark.

There was a small stream and a valley where the wild prairie grass grew high as my head. It was dry, and we had to beat it down before we could have a fire. We found other wagons camped at that place. They were on the bank of the stream, and some passed over and made a fire in a log on the other side. Our wagon was broken and our horse gone. We remained two days. During that time the wind raised, and blowing some sparks from the log that was burning, caught the grass, and swept like fury over the ground. The men were away hunting horses, and had left Jacob Powers and Bud Wright to take care of things—who were playing in the water with their boots off! And were altogether too slow for the fire. My first impulse was to save life. I took the children and their pony on a little island in the branch: after fastening the pony, took the children to the wagon, put them in, tossed a few things in and got in myself until the flames passed under it. Those who never saw a prairie burning can form no idea of the swiftness of the flames. They seem to go before the wind. There were several haystacks at a short distance which made a grand fire. (Being a great damage to the rancher that lived there.) After two days we repaired and traveled on.

Our road led us to Platte River. It hasn't much valley and no timber. Some places spread wide, having a few willows. We stopped at the banks of the river. There was a settlement around there: farmers lived on both sides of the river. Platteville was the name of a little place where we stopped. There was a blacksmith shop, saloon, and dwellings. The houses were built without lumber. They were made of sod cut smooth and dried, and built like brick, and when white washed inside looked pretty and neat. The ceiling overhead was of small willows with leaves and branches fitted closely together, which contrasted nicely with the whitewash; the floor being smooth earth. We were there on Easter, and the men brought eggs, and had a feast. I was invited to dine with the hostess. They had killed a large wild goose, and had it roasted.

(Continued on page 8)

*WELCOME
NEW
MEMBERS*

Diane K. Young

*Breezy
Blankenship*

*Mary Jeanne
Snyder*

*Dick & Nancy
Wiltse*

*Clifton & Sharon
Ross*

Steve Treacy

Betty Burdyshaw

*Velma Jean Duley
Reed*

Julie O'Brien

*Don & Verba
Abblott*

DON'T MISS IT!

JCGS has a full schedule of event for the coming quarter. You can refer to the calendar in this issue for dates and times (don't forget to mark your calendars), but some of the special things coming up include our monthly meetings, discussion groups and resource corners:

June Meeting: Jim Johnson from Heritage Quest in Sumner will guide us through resources that may help us follow our ancestors in their migrations across the US. AniMap, a software program for identifying shifting boundaries of counties also contains plotting features so that specific towns, waterways and railroads can be added so you can understand the physical environment in which your ancestors lived. Also, Jim will discuss mapping resources, such as Google Earth, on the internet.

July Meeting: One never knows what gems can be found among the pages of the local newspaper. Marilyn Santiago, President of the Clallam County Genealogical Society, will remind us how valuable a resource the products of the press can be.

August Meeting: No meeting this month—enjoy the summer!

Writing Your Family History Discussion Group: Share your knowledge and gain insights into writing your family story (whether for publication or for family members).

Regional Research Discussion Group: We have touched on Wisconsin research before but will return there for the next 3 months by popular acclaim. The discussion group will focus on how to research in this important Midwestern state (and those around as well)

May Resource Corner: Marge Samuelson will lead us through the New England Historic Genealogical Society site that we subscribe to at the Research Center. It is focused on New England and New York research, but holds other treasures that are useful to any research. Marge's experience with the newly reorganized site will help you find your way. [Note: this is a change from the topic identified in the previous newsletter]

June Resource Corner: Making Your Genealogy Program Work for You. Our genealogy software programs can do more for us that we think. Bev Brice will review the use of gedcom files, error lists, merging, custom reports, place lists, narrative reports, source lists, and bibliographies. We won't have time to demonstrate each program, but you can see what the possibilities are and then individual help will be available if requested.

July Resource Corner: Barb Way has researched her families following the migration path from England to Canada to the US. She will share her research expertise. This will be a good chance to identify record locations to help you with your families.

August Resource Corner: Bev Brice will share insights into how court records are organized. This will help you know what you are looking for in this valuable, but often hard to use, resource.

August Research Trip: Having been snowed-out for the trip to the Seattle Public Library last winter, we'll try again. Great resources from around the country and world are available there.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS JUNE * JULY * AUGUST

DATE MEETINGS AT RESEARCH CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

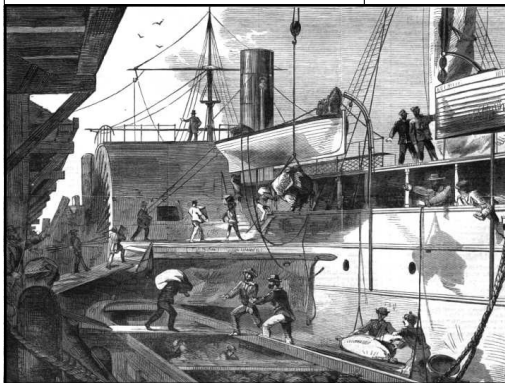
NOTE: all meetings at Research Center now start at 9:30 AM

6 June	Executive Committee Meeting (9:30 AM)
14 June	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group (9:30 AM)
20 June	Regional Research Discussion Group: Researching in Wisconsin (9:30 AM)
21 June	Monthly Meeting: AniMap and other mapping resources (9:30 AM, Tri-Area Community Center)
26 June	Volunteer Meeting (9:30 AM)
27 June	Program Committee Meeting (9:30 AM)
28 June	Resource Corner: Making Your Genealogy Program Work for You (9:30 AM)
11 July	Executive Committee Meeting (9:30 AM)
12 July	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group (9:30 AM)
18 July	Regional Research Discussion Group: Researching in Wisconsin (9:30 AM)
19 July	Monthly Meeting: Using Newspapers (9:30 AM, Tri-Area Community Center)
24 July	Volunteer Meeting (9:30 AM)
26 July	Resource Corner: Migration Research: England, Canada, US (9:30 AM)
1 August	Executive Committee Meeting (9:30 AM)
4 August	Research Trip: Seattle Public Library
7 August	Library Committee Meeting (9:30 AM)
9 August	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group (9:30AM)
15 August	Regional Research Discussion Group: Researching in Wisconsin (9:30 AM)
30 August	Resource Corner: Using Court Records (9:30 AM)

MIGRATING UP THE MISSISSIPPI

Contributed by Karen Driscoll

After departing from Liverpool, England on April 2, 1847, bound for New Orleans aboard the ship, *Radius*, John Greening, his wife Maria and their children, Charley, Clara and Jim began their long journey up the Mississippi River to the farm they had arranged to buy in Mazomanie, Wisconsin. John Greening was my great, great grandfather. This excerpt is from his diary written aboard ship as they approached New Orleans.



Loading stores on a steamship

May 23: Whitsunday, seven weeks and two days out. We shall get in, in a few hours now. Oh, that my wanderings were over. 'Tis a long way and near 2000 miles to go yet. We can see horses, mules, carriages, carts, and slaves in abundance, as now the land has become firm enough for a road by the river side. There is one darkey I see carrying a parasol over his master, and five teams at work among the sugar canes.....They are quite busy now plowing between it. For all 'tis Sunday. I shall be in Orleans presently.

May 24: ...We had to go to the Custom House to get a permit to land the luggage, then get a steam boat. Clara was taken ill, I got some quinine powders, for which I paid dreadfully dear. This is one of the dearest places in America. I believe that

every one who has written back, has grossly misled us as regards the inconvenience of the journey. ...

May 25: Rained in torrents all day. It cost me almost as much to get my things on the *Eclipse* as it will to go to St. Louis. Besides having more than five pounds worth of damage done. I paid six shillings for taking the beds and children dry a quarter of a mile. The fact is, it never rains in England as it does here, and thunders terrifically. The fluid shivered a main-top mast to atoms, thirty yards from our ship, and the *Radius* herself quivered from stem to stern under us. And the torrents of water pouring down, makes a man bend like a reed. We were out in all of it shifting luggage or lose a passage, but I kept Maria dry somehow. I don't know how for umbrellas are useless in such a rain. There is not a stone as big as a man's fist in 200 miles of Orleans and the mighty river runs on the highest ground of the two, having cast up its mud on the sides, and the town rather lower. If you stick a space in the street (you don't need a pick ax), the hole runs full of water in one minute....Everything like a

(Continued on page 12)

A good website
For migration
Information

Is:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gentutor/migration.html>

Migration Research (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

in Pennsylvania and then migration to other areas.

Where She Came From. This book is a research on Holocaust families.

Of course, one can not look at migration without having access to maps.

You will find the following very useful:

Map Guide to American Migration Routes 1735-1815 and Historic American Roads. These books discuss the major roads including when they were opened.

Atlas of Trails West of the Mississippi River, Atlas of Settlement between Appalachian Mountains and Mississippi-Missouri Valleys and Atlas of Appalachian Trails to the Ohio. These books are all useful, however they can contain errors so verify the information elsewhere.

US Road Atlas and British Ordinance Survey 2000. These books give contemporary maps. Often the old roads coincide with modern highways.

Township Atlas. This book gives the contemporary townships for each county in the US.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

by Jesse Stewart

WOW! What a great celebration we had for our 25th Anniversary at the annual seminar in March. Over 170 people learned a lot from our speaker, Elizabeth Shown Mills. Her humor interlaced with important content made it easy to learn! A great group of people made the seminar possible—so a big THANK YOU to all who helped plan and/or make the day run so smoothly.

Our Treasurer, Al Standish, reports that our Spring Seminar was not only a fitting Silver Anniversary Gala, but also a financial success. Due to the hard work of Eileen Martin and her crew, we kept expenses low and cleared over \$1,500 in revenues. At the end of April, we held \$2,224.50 in savings and checking accounts, \$16,622.43 in CDs and \$123,045.77 in funds at the Seattle Foundation for a grand total of \$139,668.20.

The Research Center which we share with the Historical Society is the home for the archives of Jefferson County. To help assure the “safety” of those archives, we’ve changed some of our procedures at the RC. We no longer will be able to eat or have beverages in the “public area”; we limit food to the kitchen to minimize attracting insects. We will be holding most of our meetings in the kitchen unless the size of the group is too large (this is usually the case with the Resource Corners). We also want to be prepared to welcome the public at the 11:00 opening time, so meetings that are held in the “public area” will have to end by that hour. Therefore, our meetings, discussion groups, resource corners and other events will begin at 9:30 AM. I hope this won’t be too inconvenient.

This month’s newsletter focuses on migration. I think you’ll learn a little about how and why our ancestors made the decision to uproot their families to settle in a new place. Today, our migrations are easy—we move for a job or to a nice place for retirement. But, in the early years of our country, it was truly a major decision to relocate. Have you ever asked yourself why did my ancestor move, and how did he get to his new home? Fascinating questions when one really digs into it. I challenge you to ask yourself about the motivations that may have led to your ancestors’ migrations and the obstacles they faced. You might find some answers to these questions in the books in our collection or through discussions with other members!

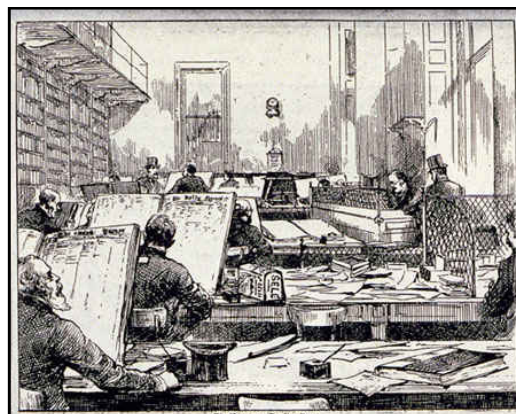
Finally, I’d like to apologize to Paul Hanway for mis-spelling his name on his wonderful article in our March issue. Can’t blame the census takers, courthouse recorders, etc.; even genealogists get names wrong!

NEW SUBSCRIPTION WEBSITE AT THE RESEARCH CENTER

We have upgraded our subscription to *Newspaper Archives*. You can now search by surname which makes the site much easier to use. As is true with all newspaper sites online, they advertise a large number of papers. The question is, do they have what you are looking for? I would recommend searching first by your surname, limiting it to place and date. If you don’t get a hit, search for the location only and see what they have in the state and county you are researching.

Footnote is a new addition to our offerings. This site has original historical documents relating to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, US presidents, some newspapers and naturalization records. The Civil War collection includes both Union and Confederate pension indexes. There are also Confederate pension records from Alabama, Texas and Virginia. The Revolutionary War pension records have an every name index, making this a very valuable resource.

Hope you’ll come in and take a look



Old Newspaper Reading Room in the
British Library

COVERED WAGON (CONT.)

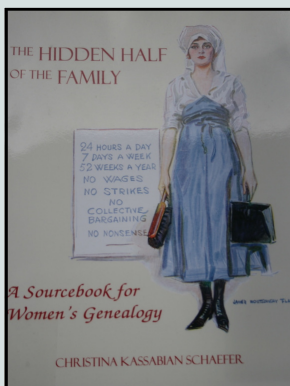
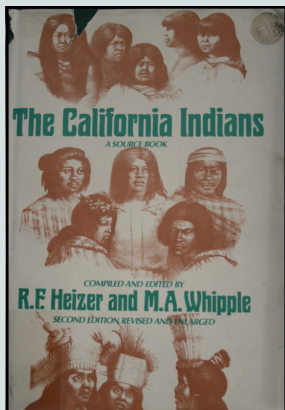
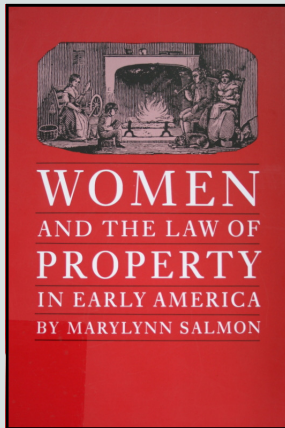
We got our wagons repaired, sold our pony, and fixed up for starting again. Our road followed near Platte River. A great many places were barren, sand or alkali. Buffalo bones, horns, and sometimes skeletons were strewn along. At one trading post they had a house full of robes to sell. Antelope were plentiful, and we often traded bacon for fresh antelope meat. Near Denver City, at the foot of the mountains, the country was more fertile. Indeed, I thought it was beautiful. We were on an elevated plain, the river being some distance to our right. Along it was green grass. On our left were hills and mounds, with higher mountains before us. We entered the city a little after dark, and drove into the emigrant corral. This was a long row of sheds—built in a square, with stalls for horses, cattle and mules inside. It was also a yard for wagons and campers. There were a great many emigrants and all kinds of people. A great many were from the mines. They were getting a start to Boise, Idaho.

(Unfortunately, the narrative ends here) Margaret Beavers Polsley died September 19, 1915 at the age of 85. She is buried in Dixon, California, beside her husband and 11 year old daughter.)

THE 50/50 BOOK PURCHASE PROGRAM

Have we got a deal for you! If you wish to purchase a book for your genealogical research, you can submit the book name to Bev Brice and if it is approved the JCGS will pay half of the book price. You get to use the book for the first 6 weeks and then the book is added to the library's collection. The list below contains some books and CD's the library is already wishing for:

- **“Opening the Ozarks 1835-1839”** by Marsha Hoffman Rising. This is a four volume book about Missouri and those who obtained land from North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. It costs \$200.
- **“Inhabitants of New Hampshire 1776”** by Emily S. Wilson. This costs \$18.
- **“New Hampshire Families in 1790”** Vol. 1 by Gravel and Kruger. This book is the first of a series and it costs \$52.81.
- **“Calendar of New Jersey Wills”** vol. 1-3. This CD costs \$29.99
- **“Abstracts of Lancaster County, PA Deed Records”**, (Books EE, FF, GG, HH), 1786-1797, Vol. 2-6. by Edward N. Wevodau. These books cost \$20 each.
- **“Abstracts of Lancaster County, PA Orphans Court Records, 1742-1782, 1768-1782, 1782-1791”** by Edward N. Wevodau. Each volume costs about \$20.
- **“The Uncertainty of Everyday Life 1915-1945”** by Harvey Green. This book costs \$16.



New Books

MIGRATION: WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY SETTLEMENT OF THE MOSS COVERED RAIN FOREST—THE HOH

By Marge Samuelson

The Hoh settlement is located two miles from the mouth of the Hoh river on the Pacific Ocean, in West central Jefferson County. The name is a simplified form of the Indian name, which was *Oh-la-qu-hoh* or *Hoo-h-oh-ah-lat*, meaning “can speak Quinault at that place”. The Hoh Indian Tribe lives mainly at the mouth of the Hoh River on the Hoh Reservation but the first white settlers choose the Hoh valley and adjacent areas south of Forks.

One of the first settlers was a young man named John Huelsdonk and his extended family. Born in the principality of Lippe along the Holland border, the family decided to leave their homeland because they were resentful of political unification of the independent German states, deciding to go to America. John was eleven when his parents sold their entire holdings and crossed the Atlantic, settling in Iowa. They purchased a large farm where they remained until their sons’ moved away to new places. The sons during their lifetime spread from Patagonia to northern Alaska, venturing into the fields of gold mining, mechanical inventions, airplane flying, art and what not.

When John came of age he moved to Seattle, and found a job with a surveying crew. When land in the West Olympics became available for homesteading, he and two of his brothers decided to settle in the Hoh Valley. As homesteaders did they cleared a patch of forest, built a cabin, and started a garden. John eventually went back to Iowa where he married his foster sister Dora Carolina Wilimina Wolf. She was an orphan who had been raised by the Huelsdonks in Holland, and at the age 15 had been apprenticed as a cook. When she turned 18 she went to America to work as a housekeeper in the Midwest. After they were married in 1892, John and Dora set off for the Hoh.

John’s parents lost their store in Council Bluffs during the depression of 1893. They had sold the farm and used the money to invest in the store. Soon the entire family, widowed grandfather Cornelius Berand, Herman and Elizabeth Huelsdonk and their minor children all came to the Hoh, John and Dora and their children being the only ones that remained.

By far the larger proportions of Hoh valley settlers were of North European derivation, Dutch, Scandinavian, English, Scotch and German. A few other early settlers names include Anderson, Smith, Fletcher, Stodick, and Peterson. John Huelsdonk, know as “The Iron Man of the Hoh,” was in his day famous all over the West. There were numerous stories about his feats of strength, his ability as a hunter and trapper; most were true. Time magazine even published his obituary when he died in 1946 at the age of 79. The Jefferson County Historical Society Research Center has many photographs of John, and an oral history of his daughter Lena Huelsdonk Fletcher.

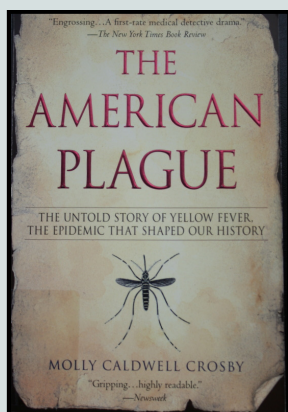
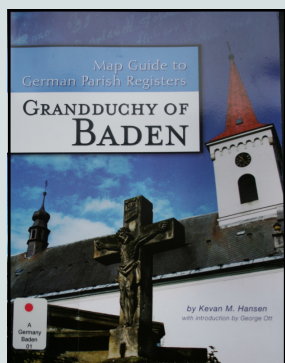
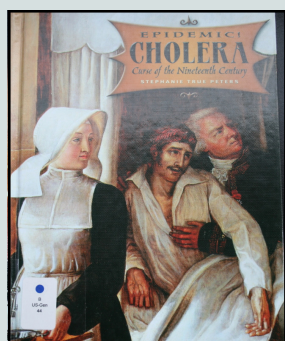
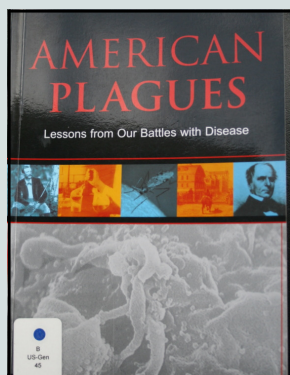
Sources: With Pride in Heritage, published by JCHS, PDN articles Legendary “Iron Man of The Hoh” dies at Angeles, 10/31/1946; “Lena Fletcher, About the “Iron Man of the Hoh”



John Huelsdonk, known as the “Iron Man of the Hoh”
Seattle Times/P.I. Feb 12, 1983

Hoh Rain Forest



New Books

NEW BOOKS IN THE JCGS LIBRARY

COME IN AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW BOOKS !

Ireland	Description of towns in Ireland
Epidemic! Cholera	Human face of epidemics
American Plague	From Small Pox to Cancer
The American Plague	Yellow Fever, experience and treatment
The California Indians	Life of the original people of California
Women & Law of Property in Early America	Reference for legal aspects like dower. Not a quick read but useful.
Hidden Half of the Family A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy	Location by state for female research
Map Guide to German Parish Registers Grandduchy of Baden	Map reference, list of churches by town
Tombstone Inscriptions of Orange County, VA	Everyone born before 1850
Genealogist's Handbook for New Eng- land Research	Locate references using this
Evidence Explained, Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace	Elizabeth Mills' new book
Great Migration Newsletter Vol. 11-15	Great background information on early New Eng- land research
Probate Records Providence of NH 1635-1771 CD	All records before 1771 in 9 books
Rutland Co. Vermont Probate Abstracts	Rutland Judicial District of county
History of California	The standard! 7 volumes of detailed history. No surname index.
Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County NY CD	Adds vol. 8-9 of series

PLANNING FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!

Our September newsletter will pick up on one of Elizabeth Shown Mills' lessons from the seminar—finding your ancestors through their “FAN Club”. In many cases, a particular ancestor didn't leave many records behind, but his Friends, Associates and Neighbors did—these are his FAN Club.

By researching the people your ancestor knew, worked with, went to church with, and probably moved around with, you can often find the origin of your family. We'd love to share how you traced an ancestor by knowing his associates. Let us know of your success story.

BOOK REVIEW

By Barbara Larsen

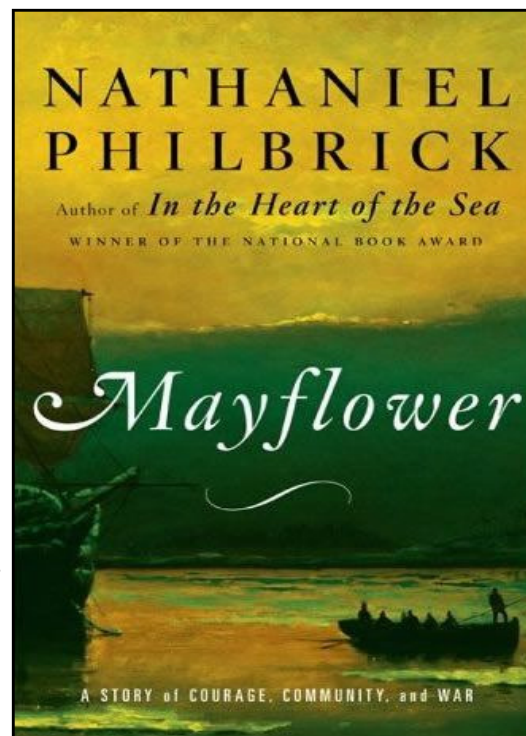
Did you think you had an adequate study of United States history in school? Think again. You will realize how little history we learned in school after you read *Mayflower*. It is much more than Pilgrims, Indians and the First Thanksgiving. The author makes the people and places come alive in this book.

The author notes: "The oft told tale of how the Pilgrims and the Indians celebrated the First Thanksgiving does not do justice to the history of Plymouth Colony. Instead of an inspiring tableau of tranquil cooperation, the Pilgrims' first half-century in America was more of a passion play in which vibrant, tragic, self-serving and heroic figures struggled to preserve a precarious peace — until that peace erupted into one of the deadliest wars ever fought on American soil."

The author has done extensive research to put together this volume. The Notes section, at the end of the book, is 50 pages and the Bibliography section is 28 pages. Names and places are indexed.

Included are maps tracing the Mayflower path in 1620 and tracts of the Mayflower off Cape Cod. Other maps trace the land expeditions and give a closer view of Plymouth Harbor. There are several photos and drawings of artifacts of the time.

The book was published in 2006 by the Penguin Group and contains 461 pages. It is available in the JCGS collection.



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Visitors
Welcome



This issue features
the migrations
of our ancestors

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garden is raised artificially two feet high, but they get the greatest abundance of great stuff from up the river. They cannot plow the ground for the furrow runs full, so they sow rice on the top twice a year. There are no drains, for there is no place to drain to. So the mud is ankle deep in the streets and stinks like a charnel house. All the dead bodies are bricked up in holes in the walls.

May 26: ...The inconvenience and expense in getting up the country is very great, a man may shift and do very well, but with a woman and children, "Tis" heartaching to think upon. I don't know what I shall find when I get there, but I would not go through what I have with a family, for fifty pounds. I would rather shoot them all, and then myself, but when I look in their faces and see all in health (such as it is), my courage don't fail me a bit.

May 28: Halfway to St. Louis, out boat is the Eclipse, 350 horse power, high pressure, 900 tons burthen, much bigger and larger than the ship Radius, with 7 boilers and two engines, and paddles as large as the Shades Inn, or nearly so. It burns 250 pounds worth of wood in five days, purchased on the banks for \$3.00 per cord, ...We took in 44 cords last night, and this morning it is all gone. Our speed is 220 miles per day, against a current of from 4 to 6 miles an hour....

May 29: ...We have three slaves on board, the servants of the officers. They seem quite happy and fat, but they don't work like free men—the fact is they don't belong to themselves and they feel it. Everything is much dearer in Orleans and at all the stations up the river than in England, costing us an immensity of money, in consequence of the Mexican War and European demands but it will not be quite so bad in Wisconsin, if ever we get there....

June 2: I took the fever suddenly and in about three hours was quite incapable of anything. I got a powerful fever dose prepared from Acton's Powders, (Corn Marker) and took a dose oil and bathed my head with vinegar and got quite sensible again in about 12 hours. People die here in a very few hours.