

ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Rogue Digger is a publication of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (www.rvgsociety.org), which is a non-profit organization governed by a thirteen-member Board consisting of elected officers, past president, and appointed directors of the Standing Committees, all with voting rights. A subscription to *The Rogue Digger* is included with membership. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual; additional members in the same household are \$15 each. Membership includes library checkout privileges. Our library website is www.rvgslibrary.org. Background map of Jackson County, OR, and miner's image courtesy RVGS.

Editor's Note:

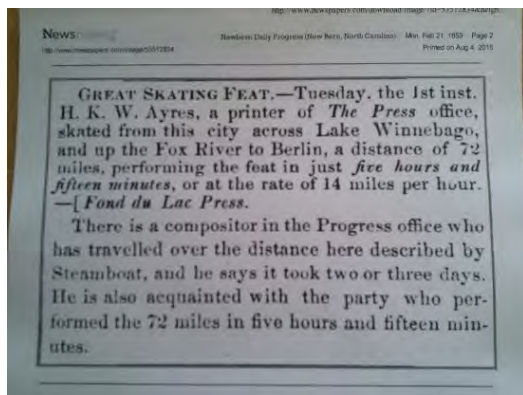
The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society is pleased to present in this issue a research success story from our September 2015 member-sharing program and another story from our February 2016 Quilts and Genealogy program. We also include information regarding an important photo source for the Northwest that you may find useful—the Bert Kellogg Collection. More research success stories from our 2015 member-sharing program and 2016 Quilts and Genealogy program will appear in future issues.

OH, HENRY, WHERE ART THOU?

by Marilyn Ayres

Henry Kirk White Ayres—printer, Civil War veteran, collector of customs, assistant lighthouse keeper, entrepreneur, athlete, and father—you seem to have had a full life, one that was interesting enough to be included in the news. It has been somewhat easy to find information about you. But what about when you went a-missing? In 1870 you seemed to have left Virginia, your then wife and daughter, and you were found again getting married in 1878. Where were you in those missing years? How do I start to look for you? Let's see. You were born in Troy, New York, about 1833 or 1834. No church records exist due to the fire of 1864 that destroyed the church and many civil records in Troy.

You moved with your parents to Wisconsin around 1847 and helped your father build the family home on Park Avenue in Berlin, Wisconsin. Then you worked in various printing offices in Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, and Berlin from 1856 to 1861. You married Louisa Clark, a woman 10 years older than yourself early in 1858, and your daughter Laura was born in 1859. The Berlin Historical Society had transcribed entries from your father's (John) family bible, giving birth, marriage and death dates for many of your nine brothers and sisters. I used that information as a base to try to find your missing years. I also read the obituary that you printed for your mother's death, not then understanding your life work as a printer and how that might have led to finding newspaper articles about you.



You were either really athletic, daft, or responding to a dare when you ice skated across Lake Winnebago and up the Fox River from Fond du Lac to Berlin on February 21, 1859, in 5 hours and 15 minutes, a distance of 72 miles. Were you going home to see your new daughter perhaps? I don't have her birthdate so don't know the answer. You, your wife and daughter are listed in the 1860 Berlin census.

You bought a family bible in Berlin in 1861, which I now own. (How I came to have it is an interesting story in itself.) You volunteered to join the Union Army in April. You later wrote when applying for a promotion to another job that you had been driven out of Texas in the spring of 1861.

What were you doing there? Were your wife and daughter with you? Did the fact that Texas joined the Confederacy cause you to leave? Most likely.

Early in the Civil War you were injured in your foot and resigned in 1862 but recovered and rejoined in time to be part of the Union campaign at Fredericksburg. During the reconstruction years following the Civil War, you worked for the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands in Virginia. I have copies of letters you handwrote during your service there describing your activities, need for a horse, a second grate to heat your office, clothes and rations for freedmen in need during the cold winter months, materials for a school, letters representing abused folks in disputes with their former masters. NARA records about the bureau are extensive and I learned that you were at Warsaw,

Petersburg, and Yorktown in that service. At some point you were thrown from your horse and injured. Then I find you in June 1870, per the census, living in Nelson township, York County, Virginia, working as a collector of customs, living with your wife and daughter, then 11. So where should I look for you after that? Back in Berlin, Wisconsin? Your mother died in 1859, your father remarried, and you have sisters there. Your next older brother, Charles, is in Minnesota. Did you go there?

Did you go back to printing? I don't know. Where to look. I checked the later censuses. I found you in Seattle in 1880 with a new wife named Jessie, a dressmaker. Yes, you were working as a printer. Then I checked Newspapers.com and found some articles about you which gave me some leads. The skating article was reprinted, probably as filler, (sorry Henry) in the New Bern, North Carolina, paper with a note that someone knew you were up to doing such a thing. Another article said that you were the president of the Typographical Union in Portland, Oregon, in 1880, confirming you were on the West Coast. You must have moved a lot, living in both Portland and Seattle that year. In 1880 you were first referred to as Captain H. K. W. Ayres. Where did you get the title Captain?

I read the book, *They Went South*, about young men who went to the Civil War from Berlin and learned from that book that you were a lighthouse keeper on Tatoosh Island, and then I found you in Port Angeles in the 1887 territorial census living with your wife, Jane, and daughter, Jessie. I looked at lighthouse and maritime information in PERSI and found that Jessie had written an article much later that gave a history of your work for four years as a lighthouse keeper and told of her young life on that remote, windswept island at the very tip of the then Washington Territory as it juts into the Pacific Ocean. And I learned that Jane raised Jessie when Jessie's mother, also named Jessie, died just six months after Jessie was born. I found Bureau of Land Management certificate 3474 showing your homestead of 160 acres up Ennis Creek from Port Angeles on Mount Pleasant. Jessie also told of herself and your wife, Jane, living alone on the acres you named Fallen Firs while you were working on the island. But you perfected the homestead that way and it gave you a source of income in later years when you sold it at a good price in the 1890s.



*Fallen Firs Ranch,
2 1/2 miles south east of Port Angeles, Wt. S.*
Photo of Fallen Firs Ranch, ca. 1886, courtesy of BERT KELLOGG
COLLECTION OF THE NORTH OLYMPIC LIBRARY SYSTEM (NOLS)
and the Washington Rural Heritage Collection.*

I contacted the Clallam County historical society in Port Angeles, Washington, and found several articles written by you to an old friend in Boston giving glowing reports of Port Angeles and the waters and suggesting opportunities for fisheries and piloting to easterners if they came west.

I also had found on Family Search and Ancestry records of your marriages, first to Jessie Cameron, in Boston, in October, 1878, and to Jane McLean, in April, 1881, also in Boston, and that both wives were originally from Nova Scotia. But I didn't think to check the Boston city directory at first to follow that lead.

I checked out Genealogy Bank and Fold3 to find more articles on you. I found in a rather trivial article that you were a member of the Milwaukee printer's union in 1856 and had made a motion to celebrate Benjamin Franklin's birthday with a festival in Milwaukee.

But nothing for the missing years. I decided to look at the Berlin Historical Society website again. It redirected me to the Wisconsin Historical Society website and when I typed in your name a new article came up. One I hadn't seen before. It was a newspaper clipping with no date and no newspaper identified. But I think it was from the Fond du Lac Democratic Press, as it gave many names and details of folks in that city that you once knew. It was a retelling of a letter you had written around 1890 to someone, unnamed, in that city and gave me details on the missing years! What a happy find. I learned that you had gone to New York, then to Melbourne, Australia, for 18 months. Why, it didn't say. I wish I could find out. Then you returned to Bridgeport, Connecticut. Who knew you would go there?

Then you went to Central America for the better part of two years and then back to Boston. I looked at the city directories for those two New England cities and found you!

Oh Henry, there you are! Still working at your printing and even owning a printing office in Boston before you sold out and married and moved west with Jessie in 1878.

I learned from the Veteran's Schedule of 1890 that you had lost your left eye from the strain of overwork. Perhaps that is why you resigned from lighthouse duty in 1889 and moved to Port Angeles. I found a record for Clallam County which listed you as a messenger and janitor for the county in 1892. And I looked at land records showing that you and Jane were profiting from real estate transactions as the city grew.

There are two photos of you in the Bert Kellogg Collection, which I saw in Port Angeles. Both are at a Thanksgiving dinner in 1893 given by the Michigan Veteran's colony there. You are shown with a cane in one photo and in another eating beans from a spoon to the delight of the gathered crowd. Both images confirm that you were tall, and your pension records do list you as 6 feet tall. And your full beard couldn't hide your delight in those beans.

More questions about you remain for me. I know your next older brother, Charles, left St. Paul, Minnesota, to come to Port Angeles in 1895. I don't know why you went to the Veteran's Home for Disabled Veterans in Sawtelle, California, in 1896. Did he accompany you? There were even two articles about your passing through San Francisco in *The Chronicle* newspaper of that city on your way south. Nothing to indicate where you were going, just that you, as someone well known to San Francisco as a journalist, were passing through. The same year, Jessie moved to Seattle, at age 16, to work in a feed and grain store and became interested in seeds. Later she studied biology at the University of Washington and became a seed analyst for the State of Idaho.

And two new articles I found show you in Port Angeles in 1899, first being feted on your seventieth (sixtieth—a misprint?) birthday by neighbors at your home, and second, in 1900 that there was a flue fire in your chimney which was put out by neighbors. Did you come home from Sawtelle and return there? The Veteran's home records show you entering in 1896 and leaving in 1902. You and Jane and Jessie are shown in the 1900 census as living in Port Angeles and that you were out of work. More questions I wish I could ask you.

I know where you rest. In July, 1902, you left Sawtelle and went to the Veteran's home in Orting, Washington, where you died in December. I have visited your gravesite. You and your brother, Charles, both veterans, are buried close to each other, two rows apart. Jane went to live with Jessie in Boise and she is buried there. Jessie returned to Port Angeles when she retired and built a home there, became active in the historical society and is buried in Ocean View Cemetery in that city.

I found your missing years and a lot more. And there is more to be discovered.



[*For more information on the Bert Kellogg Collection of the North Olympic Library System \(NOLS\) and the Washington Rural Heritage Collection, see Page 6.](#)

THE RICHARDS FAMILY QUILT

by Dave Hodson



Dave Hodson presented a talk about the Richards Family Quilt during Family Quilt Sharing program on Feb. 23, 2016. The quilt was the idea of Sharon Pinkstaff Morris. Sharon is a native of Medford and the daughter-in-law of one of the Richards sisters. She bought new material and divided it up between the five Richards daughters. They each made a square that represented a state where they had lived. Sharon then put the quilt together and it was presented to a family member in 1992 as a traveling quilt. Every two years, at a family reunion, it was given to another family member. As the years passed, the younger family members were not interested in the quilt, so it is now at home in Talent, Oregon. On the back side of the quilt are pictures on cloth of the family ancestors and the genealogy of the family. The quilt was registered with the Southern Oregon Quilt Registry Project in March of 2015.

THE RICHARDS FAMILY QUILT

Good afternoon. My name is Dave Hodson. I have been a member and volunteer here at the library for about eight years. I'm here today with our Richards family quilt, with history and genealogy. First I want you to know that I know nothing about sewing or quilts. The quilt is small compared to the large quilts here at the library. The quilt is about 43 inches square. I decided to do an overhead presentation, so people in the back could see the quilt. The quilt represents the five Richard daughters, and the five states that they lived in or came from. This picture at right was taken on Thanksgiving Day 1938 of mother Jesse Formby Richards and the five girls. My wife is the daughter of one of the Richard sisters. The idea of the quilt started with my sister-in-law, Sharon Pinkstaff Morris. Sharon was born and raised and went through high school in Medford. Sharon thought that each sister could do a square and put it in a quilt to be presented at our family reunions. We sold tickets to a drawing for the quilt that helped with the cost of the reunion. The quilt would then be a traveling quilt, rewarded to a family member every two years at our reunions. As the years passed, the younger family members didn't want to keep the quilt. So the quilt is now at home in Talent, Oregon. The quilt was started in the late 1980s. The mother of the Richards daughters is Jesse Formby.

FORMBY

FAMILY REUNION

June 26, 27, 28 2015

We'll gather in the multipurpose room in Dave and Alice Hodson's gated community in Talent, Oregon

From **Formby, England** to the **U.S.A.**

Arkansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, California, Oregon



Virginia[Ginger], Lois, Jessie, Cecilia[Ceil], Alta, Vivian

[1938]

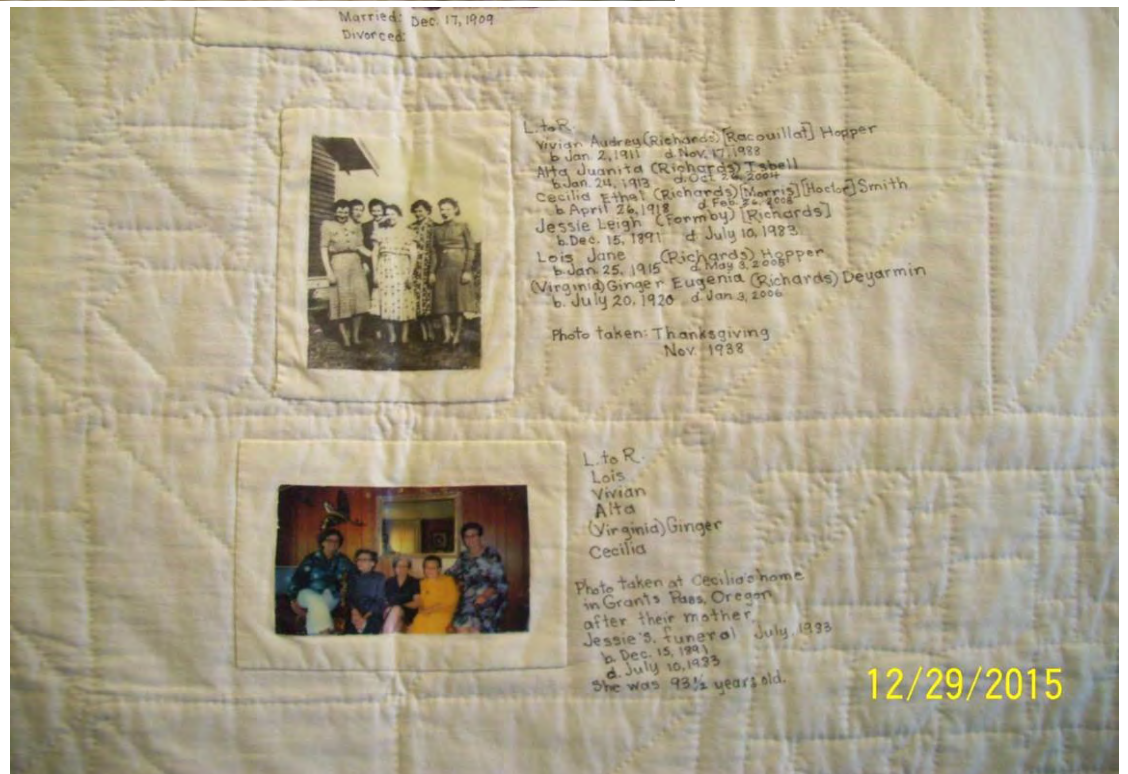
PLEASE COME: Share **YOUR** special memories of the ladies pictured.
Let's make more memories to carry on for our next family generations and reunions.

Many old quilts are made of wool and other older materials. Our quilt is made with new materials bought and divided between the five girls to make their squares.

The oldest Richards daughter did the square in the lower right hand corner, representing the state of Oregon. The next sister did the square in the upper right and represents the state of Oklahoma. The next Richards daughter did the square in the lower left corner that represents the state of California. My wife's mother did the square in the center that represents the state of Arizona. The youngest Richards daughter did the square in the upper left that represents the state of Arkansas. Sharon assembled the quilt in the early part of the 1990s. It was presented to a family member at the 1992 Richards family reunion. The quilt was registered with the Southern Oregon Quilt Registry Project in March of 2015.



So I said the quilt represented history and genealogy. So, for the genealogy we will have a look at the back side. Sharon did the process to put the pictures on cloth. All the family genealogy is written there beside the pictures. The genealogy is all from the Richards side of the family, and not the Formby family side. We also have Jesse Formby Richard's life story, which she wrote before she passed.





The Formby family emigrated from Formby, England, in about 1670. My wife's 13th great-grandfather, William Formby, built Formby Hall in Formby, England, near Liverpool, in about 1523, but family had lived on the property since the 12th century. My mother-in-law and husband, the youngest Richard daughter and Sharon and her husband, (a son of one of the Richards daughters), went to Scotland and England in June of 1995 and visited Formby Hall and the town of Formby, England.

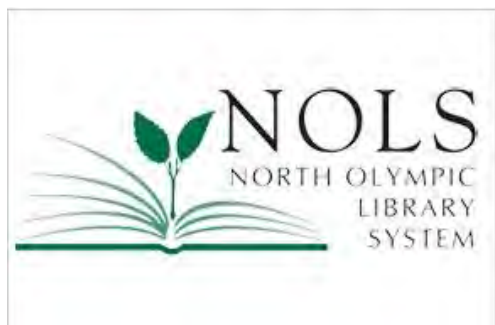
The Richards daughters were born between 1911 and 1920. The years were hard on Jesse. Her husband would leave for long periods to find work, and not support the family. Jesse would take any job—picking cotton; nursing, cleaning houses—to keep food on the table for her girls. Jesse would go down to the family smokehouse at night, pick up dirt from around the smoker, and go home and sort the salt from the dirt for her cooking. Jesse saved enough money by 1919 to take the four girls (aged 8,6,4,1 and all with whooping cough) by train from Mena, Arkansas, to Phoenix, Arizona, to find her husband. That didn't work out too well. She ended up raising the girls by herself. The fifth daughter was born in Arizona in 1920. Her husband would send home just enough money to keep the kids from starving. For a couple years the girls lived in two tents in the hot summer heat in Phoenix, Arizona. They lived in one tent and used the other tent for cooking. Jesse worked for 15 years in a citrus plant sorting dates, until the girls were through school.

The first Richard daughter passed in 1988 and the last in 2008. You can take a look at the quilt after the program. If you have any questions I will be up front and glad to answer your questions.



Formby Hall near Formby, England





THE NORTH OLYMPIC HERITAGE AND BERT KELLOGG COLLECTIONS

by Sarah Morrison, Librarian, NOLS
and Cara Davis-Jacobson

Marilyn Ayers' article earlier in this issue includes a photo of her relative's cabin and farm, Falling Firs, from the North Olympic Heritage/Bert Kellogg Collection. We are grateful to NOLS and the Collection for their permission to reprint this photo. You, too, may find this collection of use in your research, and links to the collections follow at the end of this article.

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) is only one of 36 libraries, museums, and historical centers that currently make their unique local collections accessible through Washington Rural Heritage (WRH), an organization whose webpage is hosted by the Washington State Library.

The North Olympic Heritage collection is an ongoing project. In 1970, NOLS received over 5,000 historical photos from local artist Bert Kellogg, who made copies and enlargements of pictures he was given by friends and family or found at sales, the dump, or other locations. All but a few hundred of these photos have been scanned and are available online; it is hoped that the remainder can be scanned in the next year or two. Of the thousands of scanned photos, proper cataloging conforming to metadata guidelines has been completed on more than half. The enormous amount of work this project represents has largely been completed due to special funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services at the Washington State Library and the Port Angeles Friends of the Library.

The Bert Kellogg Collection focuses on the history of Clallam County and the Pacific Northwest. The majority of the photos were taken in Clallam County between 1880 and 1920, although some date as early as 1865 and as late as circa 1960. Other collections within the Washington Rural Heritage Collection represent other communities throughout the state and have photos from the 1850s through 2010s. Collections of particular interest to RVGS's membership include the Wahkiakum County Heritage Collection and History in Pictures of Skamania County; both of these Washington counties are situated along the Oregon border.

NOLS has been making a big push this year to help identify all of the unidentified individuals in their photos. Because Bert Kellogg obtained the original pictures from such a wide variety of places, he didn't always have complete names for people in photos. When you look through these collections, if you recognize anyone in a photo, please contact the library to share that information.

If you visit Port Angeles, Washington, drop in and see the library, as well as the historical and genealogical societies there. The old Carnegie library building now houses the Clallam County Historical Society's Museum at the Carnegie, and NOLS has a lovely bright and open library building at 2210 S Peabody Street. There is an excellent archives room there, and the Clallam County Genealogical Society is right across the street.

Contact information:

Emails to notify staff of photo identifications or with questions should be directed to ehelp@nols.org.

Washington Rural Heritage landing page: <http://www.washingtonruralheritage.org>

North Olympic Heritage Collection: <http://www.washingtonruralheritage.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/nols>

