

tions. You may find a great-grandmother living with your grandparents' youngest brother or sister. Thus living with S. L. Wass, Captain of the Lighthouse Station on Cape Foulweather in 1880, was not only his family, but a grandfather Vinal Dyer, born in Maine. Similarly living with the George Stevens family, hotel keeper at Newport, was a grandmother, E. Pygall, born in Wales. Families in those days helped out when there was anyone to raise, or when anyone was left alone, and it is those individuals who may be the key to your problems.

The importance of younger relatives can be illustrated through many examples. In one instance, the youngest daughter of a large family died and left to her youngest daughter the family Bible. The mother had acquired it on the death of her parents, for whom she had cared in their final illness. In many cases important migrations of families to Oregon are known to have centered around groups of sisters and their husbands, rather than around brothers. In fact the brothers stayed behind, or migrated with in-laws to other parts of the frontier west. Once in Oregon, relatives lived near each other at first, and broke up into groups only as family divergences developed. The census may therefore be important to you in that it was recorded house by house as the census taker made his rounds, and sisters appear as neighbors.

Military records are often helpful in tracing migrations. Our veterans of World War I received a state bonus, and could apply for loans. The application files in the State Archives and the paid loan files include information as to residence, occupation, nearest of kin, age, place of birth and enlistment. At times there will even be proof of birth on file because the veteran had moved. Not only are their official bonus records in the Archives, but there are also files of the State Historian of the Defense Council including clippings relating to the men who served in the World War I, a type of data otherwise hard to find. In the custody of the Adjutant General of Oregon on the other hand are records relating to military service from Oregon, includ-

ing the Indian wars and all phases of the State National Guard. They lead directly to veterans pension records in the National Archives, Washington, D. C., which often reveal a great many details of the family migration.

Once you have pushed back the history of your family in Oregon, you are ready to trace their history in the east, or in the country from which they came. Your search in records there will be similar, except for the fact that some records will be fuller, and others sketchy and nonexistent. Armed with clues as to the origin of your family from census records, death certificate, newspaper obituary and veteran's record, you may know exactly where to go. Sometimes, however, blank walls develop and it may be necessary to do a little deducting to find your ancestors. For example, a survey of pension files of your surname of the civil war, might produce a known ancestor, a brother, or a cousin unless you have a name that is too common. If you have the search narrowed down to a state, check in that state on the nearest census to the date when the family migrated to Oregon. If you have the search narrowed down to a county, then you should employ a good genealogist to dig into all types of records, birth, marriage, death, property, tax, and court files, everything that will help. If the genealogist is beyond your pocketbook, or if you like to do the job yourself, you may find that a visit to the county would not only be successful, but a first class adventure.

Before you travel, be well prepared and check all possible printed sources, using the resources of your State Library which has begun to gather the best genealogical collection in the Northwest. You might even find a printed family genealogy that will pave the way back to the first immigrant to this country, and even into remote origins in Europe. No matter what one book will do for you, you may well want to trace the history of every branch of your family, and you will find that the task multiplies in its interest and the complexity of its trails. A family that has been in America ten generations, has 1,004 ancestors in the tenth generation, and it is the composite picture of that ancestry